



**KNUCKLES: THE RETURN**  
PART 3 OF 4

#11

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**SEGA**<sup>®</sup>

# SONIC UNIVERSE<sup>™</sup>



*Tracy Yardley!  
Hunzeker*

DIRECT EDITION

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Welcome to the planet Mobius – a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles the Echidna, guardian of Angel Island, defends his friends and homeland from the forces of evil!

**A**NGEL ISLAND OVER  
DOWNUNDA'S  
GREAT CRATER



# ECHOES of the PAST

**PART THREE**

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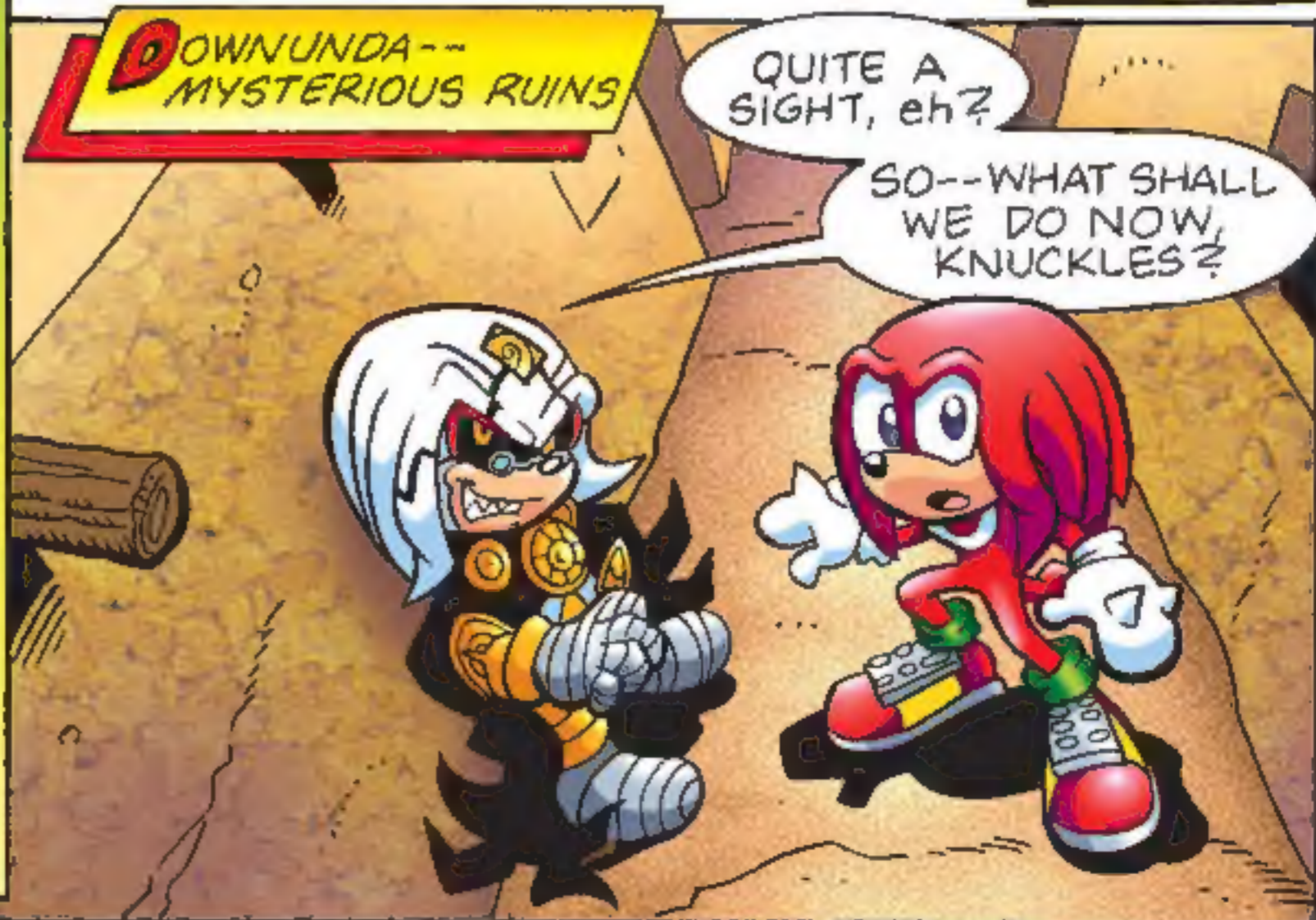
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**D**OWNUNDA--  
MYSTERIOUS RUINS

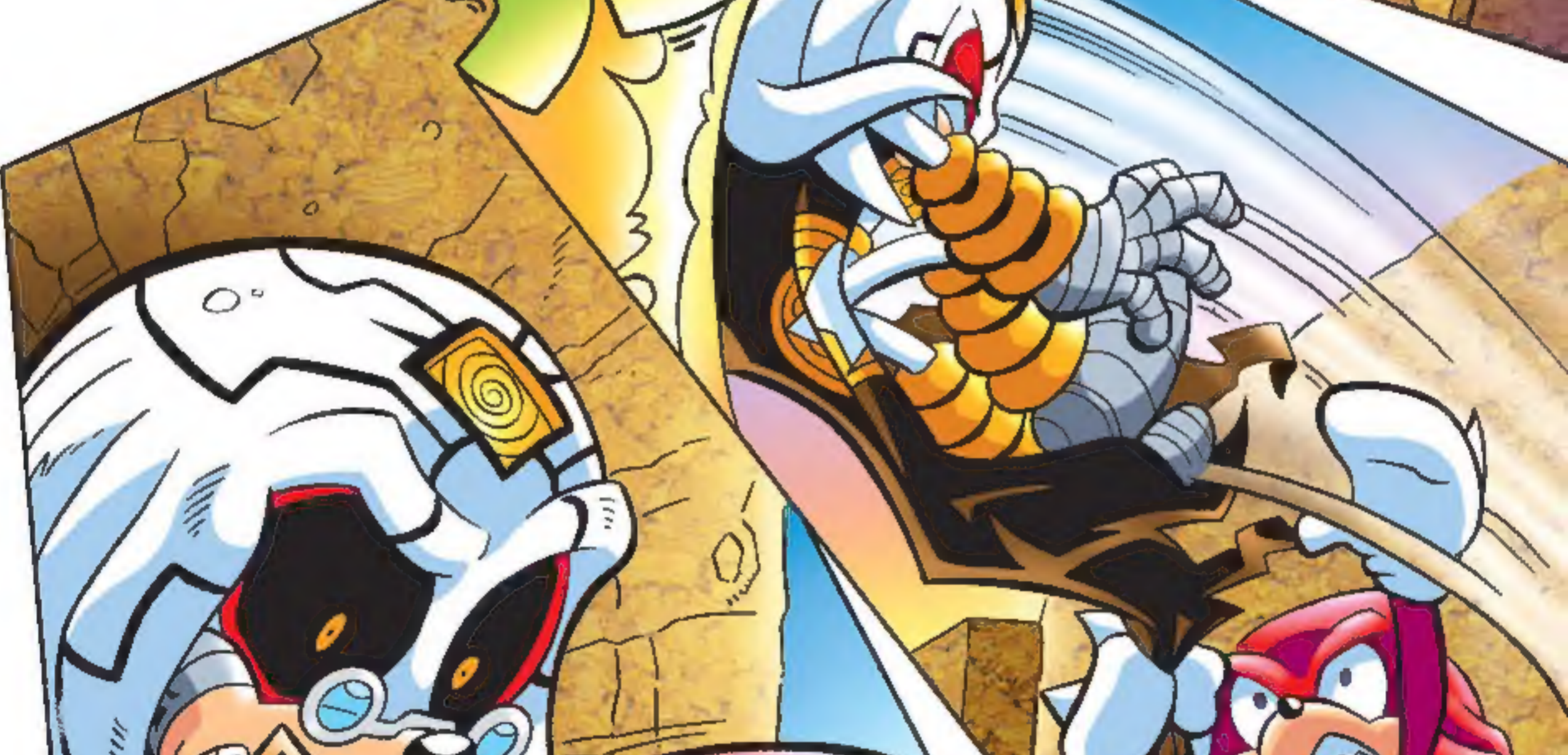
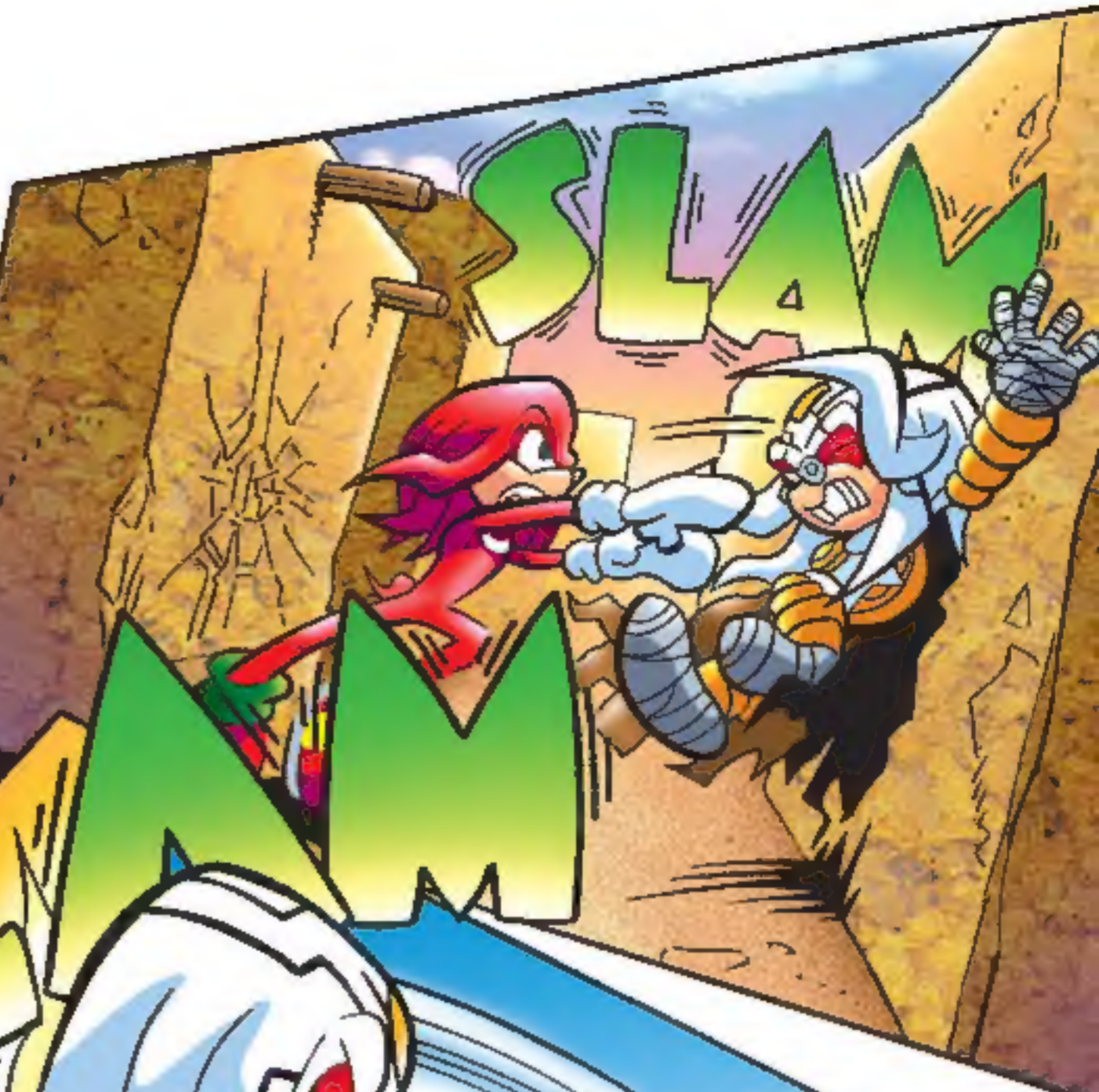
QUITE A  
SIGHT, eh?

SO--WHAT SHALL  
WE DO NOW,  
KNUCKLES?





DR. FINITEVUS  
EVIL SCIENTIST



KNUCKLES THE  
ECHIDNA  
GUARDIAN OF  
ANGEL ISLAND

I KNOW  
YOU'RE BEHIND  
ALL THIS!

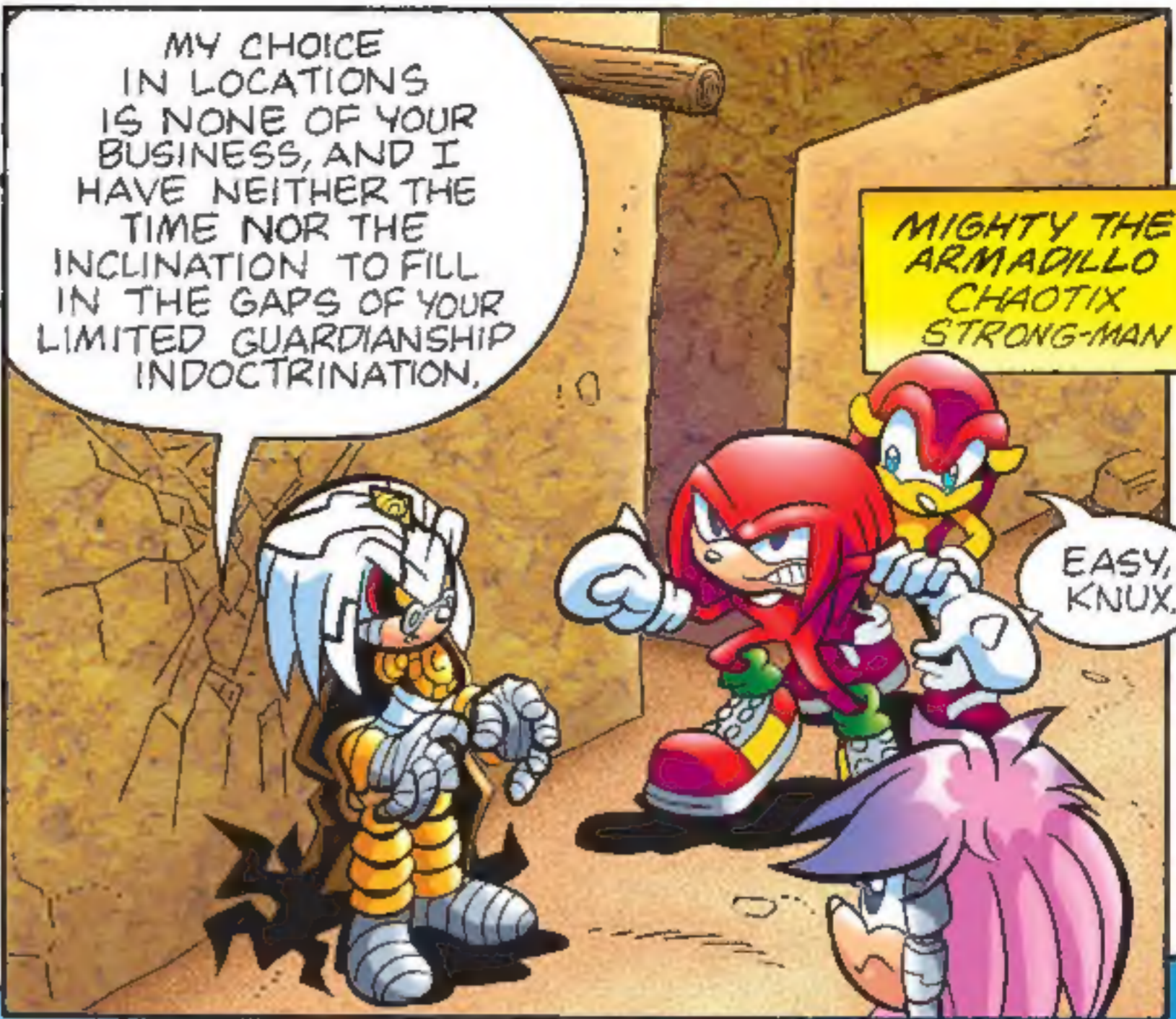
HOW DID  
YOU ACTIVATE  
THOSE CHAINS?  
WHY IS YOUR LAB IN  
A BUNCH OF RUINS  
THAT SHOULDN'T  
EXIST?

I WANT  
ANSWERS!



AND YET YOU ASK USELESS QUESTIONS.

HOW COULD I HAVE ATTACKED ANGEL ISLAND WHILE YOU WERE THROWING ME INTO WALLS?



MY CHOICE IN LOCATIONS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, AND I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE INCLINATION TO FILL IN THE GAPS OF YOUR LIMITED GUARDIANSHIP INDOCTRINATION.

MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO CHAOTIX STRONG-MAN

EASY, KNUX.



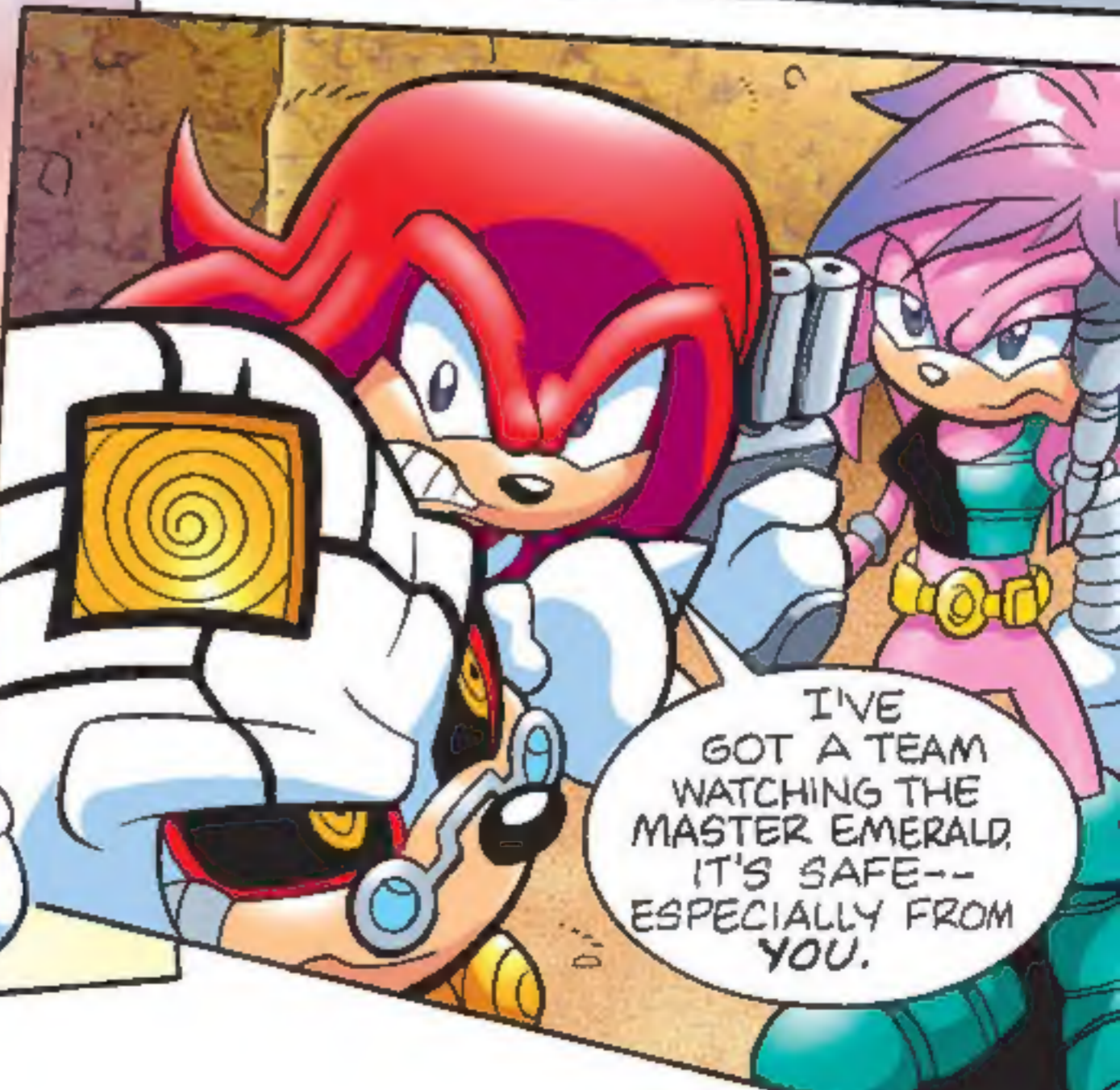
THE REAL QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW ARE, WHO DID THIS, AND HOW DO WE RESCUE YOUR PRECIOUS ISLAND?

AND WE SHOULD BELIEVE YOU CARE-- WHY?

JULIE-SU KNUCKLES' PARTNER



BECAUSE I NEED THE MASTER EMERALD TO FURTHER MY RESEARCH, IT IS AT RISK NOW, AND SO I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED.



I'VE GOT A TEAM WATCHING THE MASTER EMERALD, IT'S SAFE-- ESPECIALLY FROM YOU.



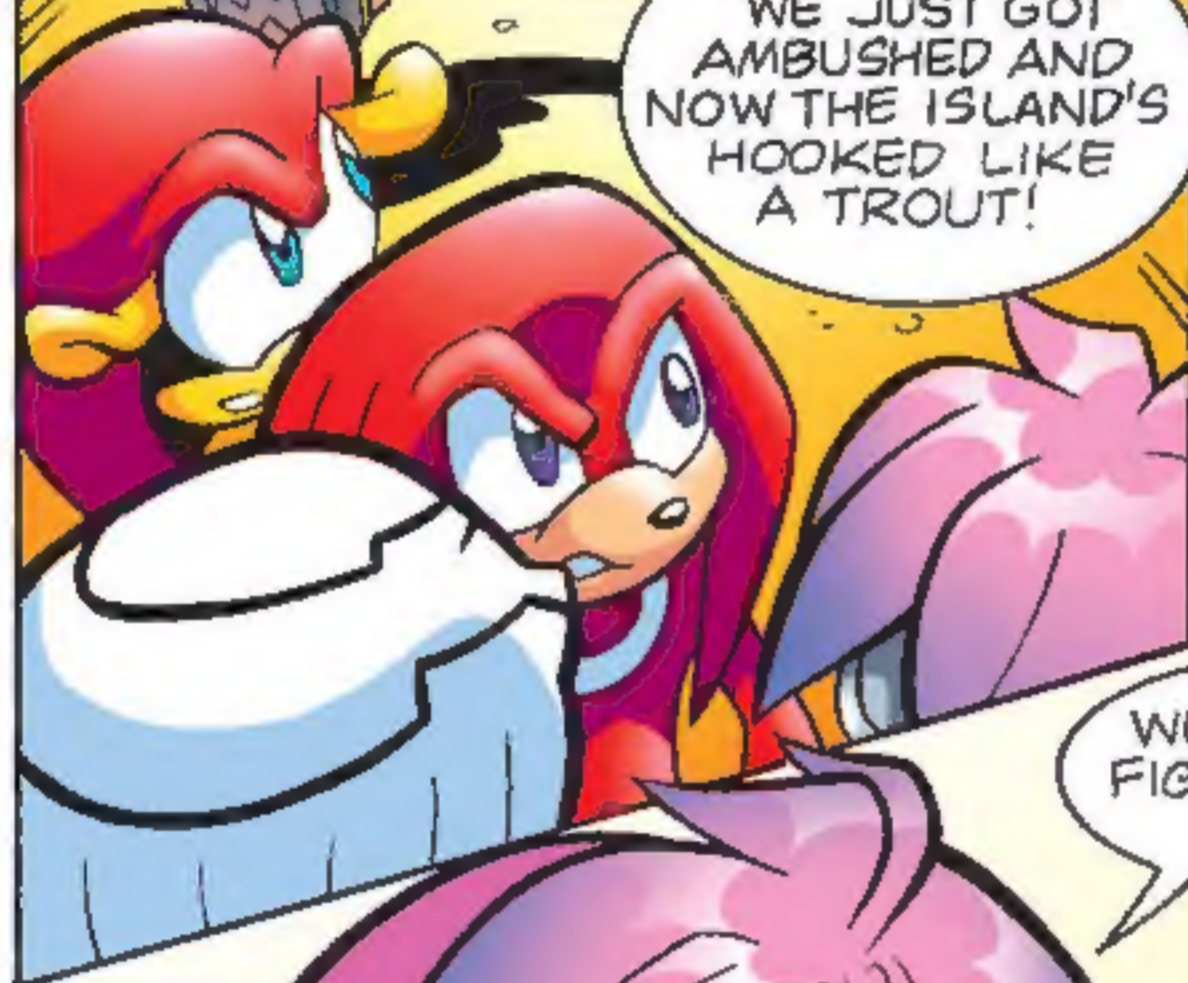
**FWASH**

DUDE!  
WE JUST GOT  
AMBUSHED AND  
NOW THE ISLAND'S  
HOOKED LIKE  
A TROUT!



HEY! THAT'S  
DR. FINITEVUS!

HAHAHA!  
SAFE INDEED!



IS THERE  
A REASON WE'RE  
NOT POUNDING  
THIS GUY INTO  
SALSA?

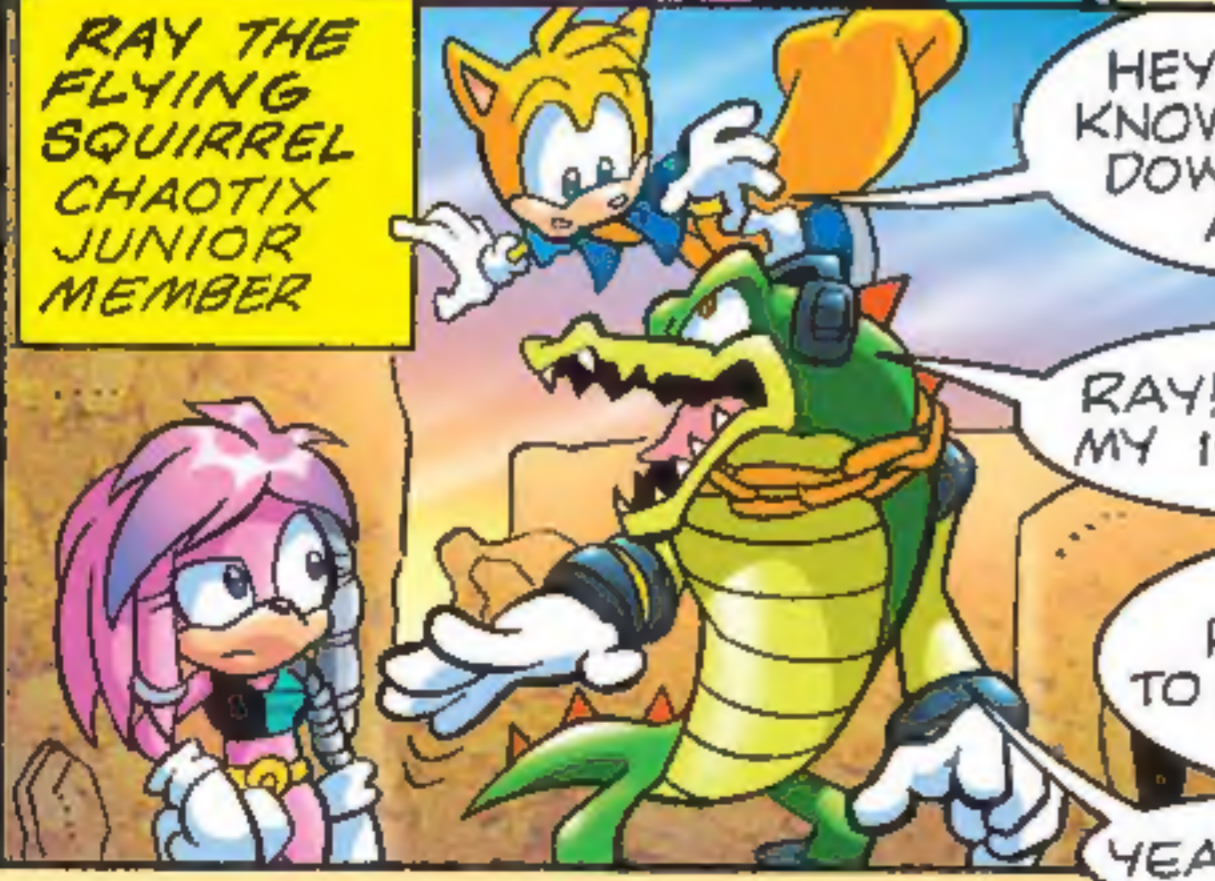
WE'RE STILL  
FIGURING THAT  
OUT.



OKAY.  
I SAID  
WE GOT JUMPED  
BY A BUNCH  
OF ROBOTS,  
RIGHT?

**VECTOR THE  
CROCODILE  
CHAOTIX  
DE FACTO LEADER**

**RAY THE  
FLYING  
SQUIRREL  
CHAOTIX  
JUNIOR  
MEMBER**

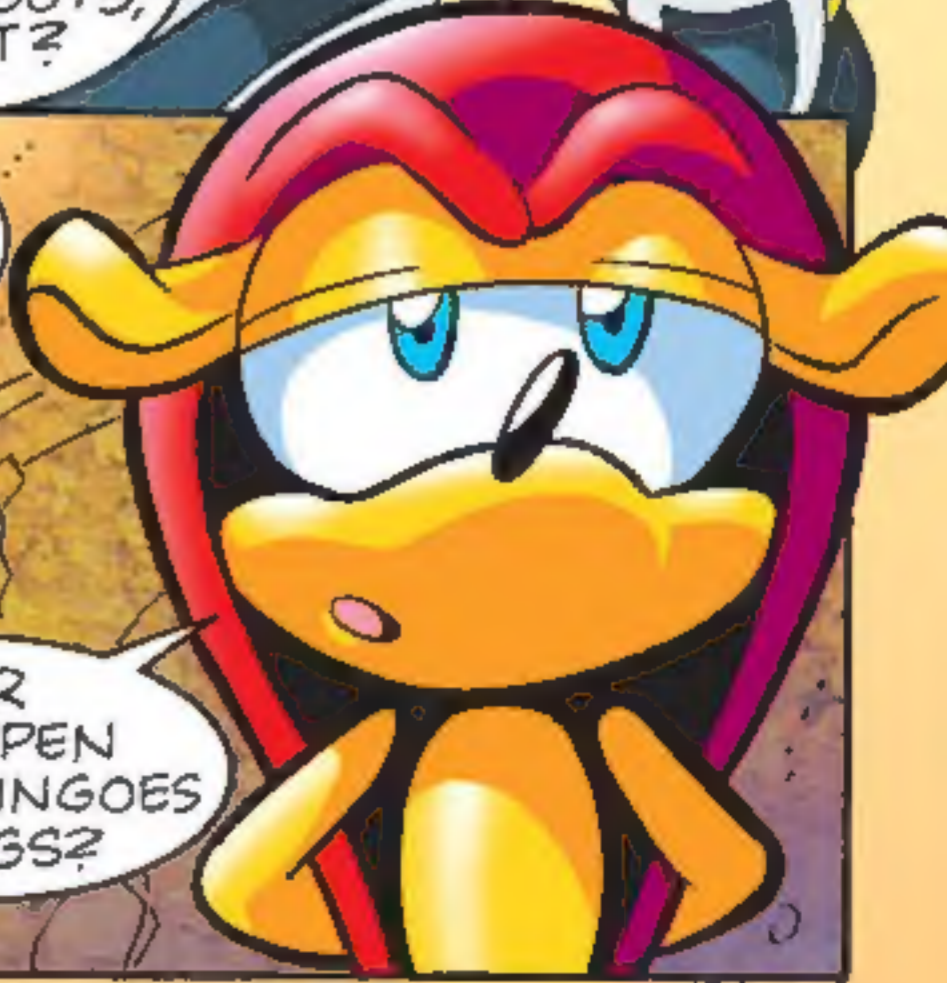


HEY, DO THEY  
KNOW YOU LEFT  
DOWNUNDA AS  
A KID?

RAY! IXNAY ON  
MY I STORY-HAY!

DID YOUR  
ROBOTS HAPPEN  
TO LOOK LIKE DINGOES  
WITH WINGS?

YEAH. WHY?





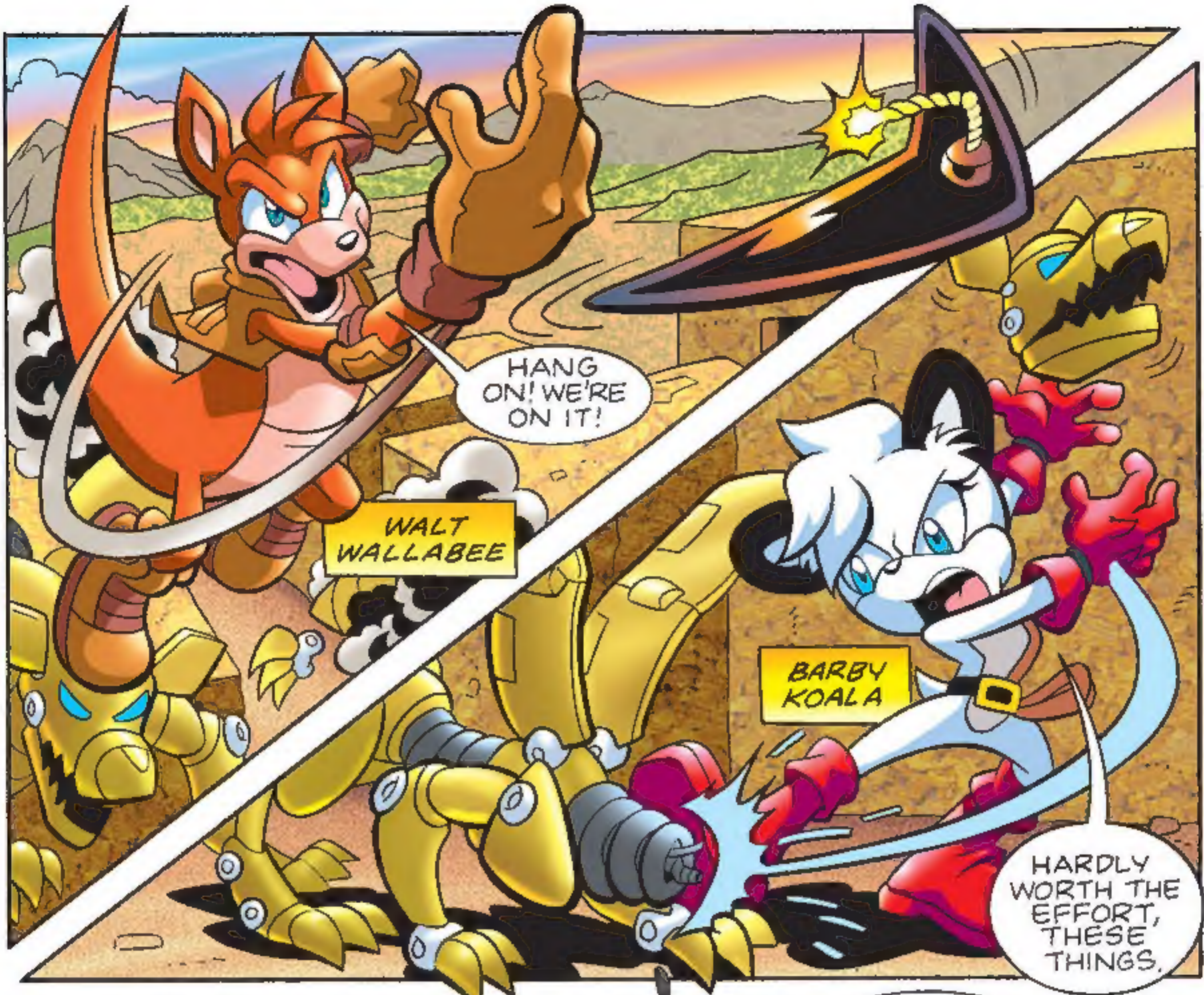
BECAUSE I THINK THEY FOLLOWED YOU HERE.

IT APPEARS WE'RE COMRADES FOR THE DURATION.

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.

HERE THEY COME, CHAOTIX.

GET READY!

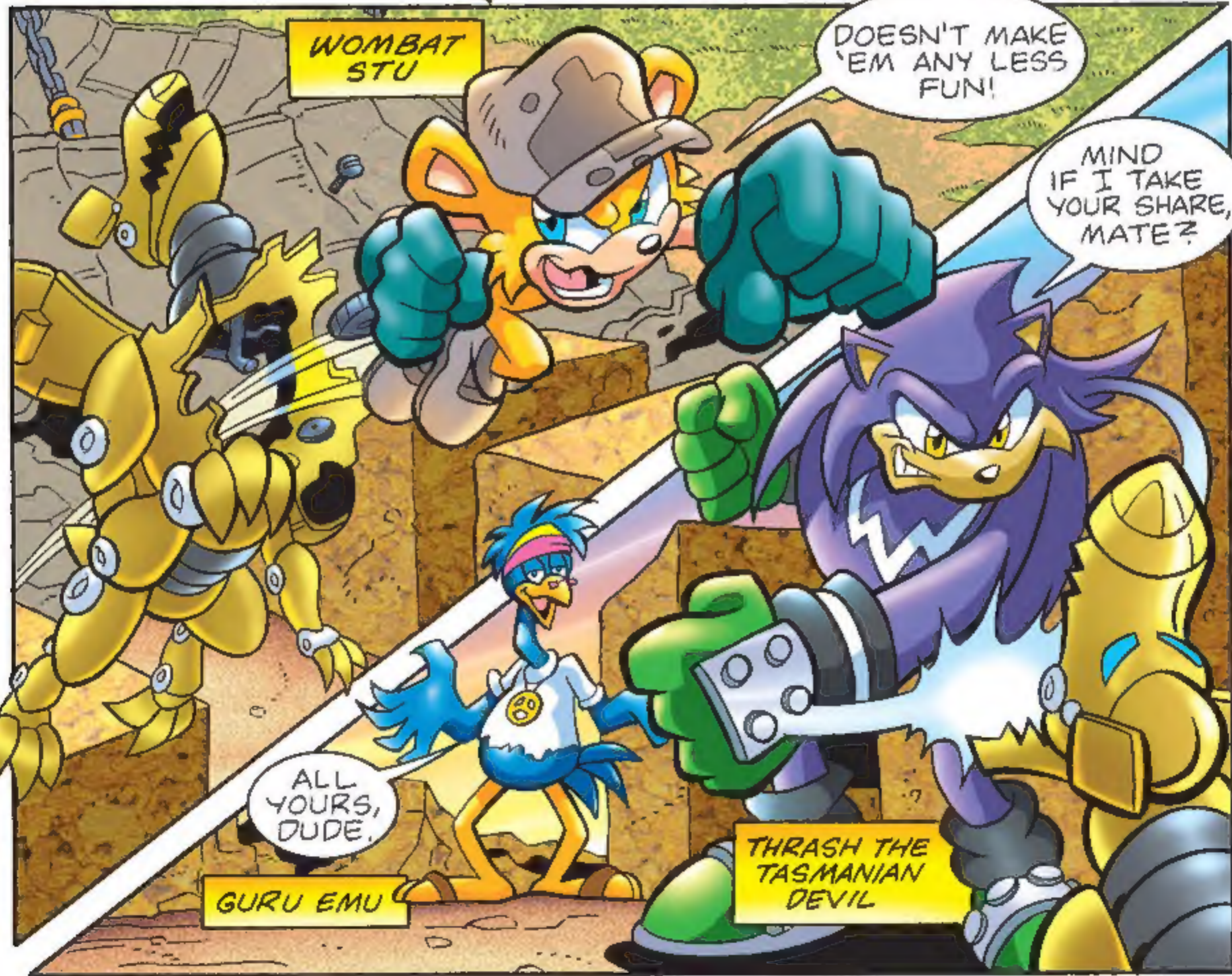


HANG ON! WE'RE ON IT!

WALT WALLABEE

BARBY KOALA

HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT, THESE THINGS.



WOMBAT STU

DOESN'T MAKE 'EM ANY LESS FUN!

MIND IF I TAKE YOUR SHARE, MATE?

ALL YOURS, DUDE.

GURU EMU

THRASH THE TASMANIAN DEVIL



WOW, NICE ENTRANCE, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA AND THE CHAOTIX,

REALLY? I THOUGHT I HAD YOU PEGGED!

WALT WALLABEE OF THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS! WE'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU, MATE.



ABOUT HIM, MAYBE.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE COMING BACK, VECTOR,

NOT REALLY MY CHOICE, BARBY.



THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF ECHIDNAS ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I'M FEELIN' SOME SERIOUSLY HARSH VIBES HERE, DUDES.

AGREED. LET'S TAKE COVER AND GET EVERYONE ACQUAINTED.

GOOD IDEA.



SOON...

... SO CHARMY AND SAFFRON TOOK TIME TO LOOK FOR THEIR PEOPLE. OUR INVESTIGATION LED US HERE, AND VECTOR AND RAY JOINED US VIA WARP RING AFTER THE ROBOT ATTACK.

HAHA!  
WOW!

ALL THE ENERJAK BUSINESS AND TAKING DOWN EGGMAN!

LOOKS LIKE I CAME HOME AT THE WRONG TIME.

IT MAKES OUR FIGHT LOOK LIKE NOTHING

COME ON, NOW. WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS.

TOTALLY.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TEAM'S MAJORLY SUFFERING. THE DARK EGG LEGION IS THROWING OFF THE HARMONY OF THE WHOLE LAND.

DARK EGG LEGION?

HERE?

SURE, A WHOLE PLATYPUS ARMY.

WHAT?

WALT, THE LEGION IS EXCLUSIVELY ECHIDNAS AND BASED IN NEW MEGAOPOLIS.



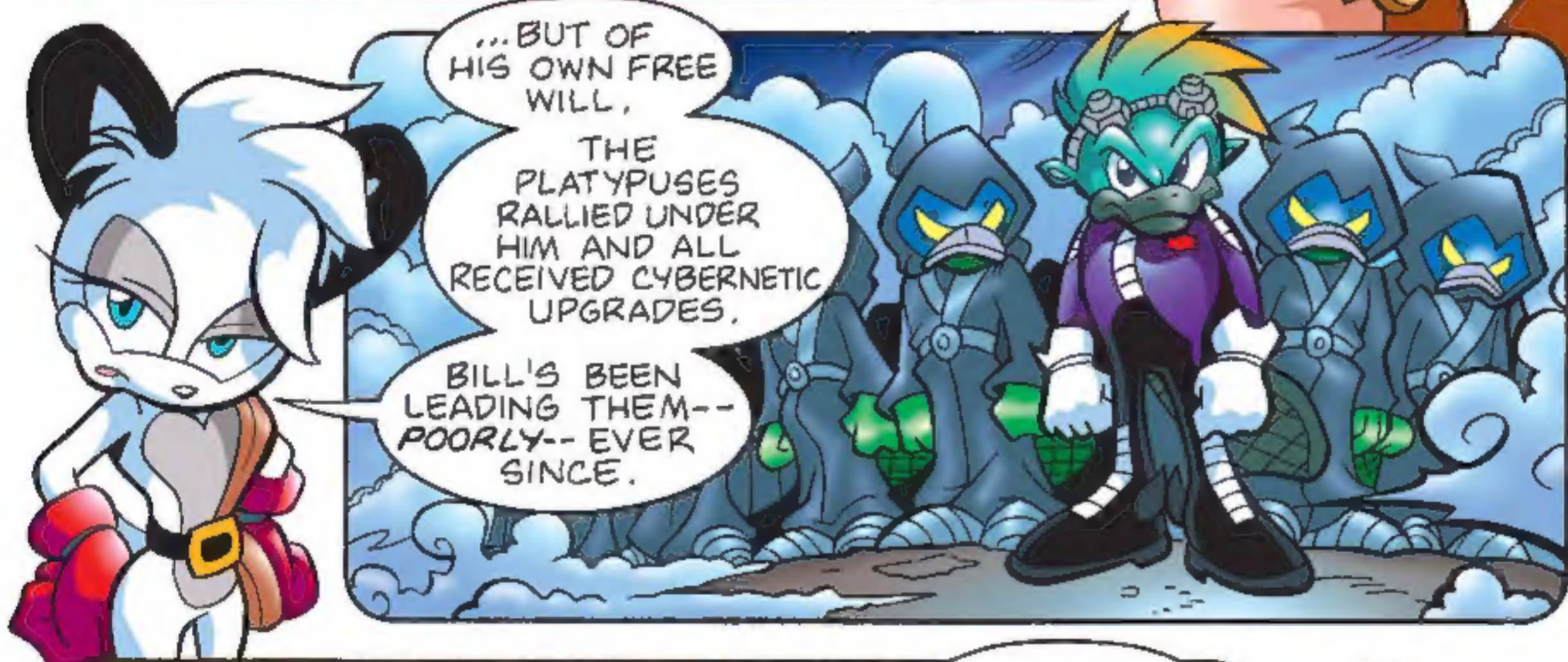
WE'LL START AT THE BEGINNING, DUDE.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, ONE OF OUR MATE S GOT BRAINWASHED INTO INCITING RIOTS ALL OVER DOWNUNDA. SONIC HELPED US GET HIM BACK, BUT...



...MONTHS BACK, DR. ROBOTNIK MADE ANOTHER BIG PUSH TO CONTROL THE REGION.

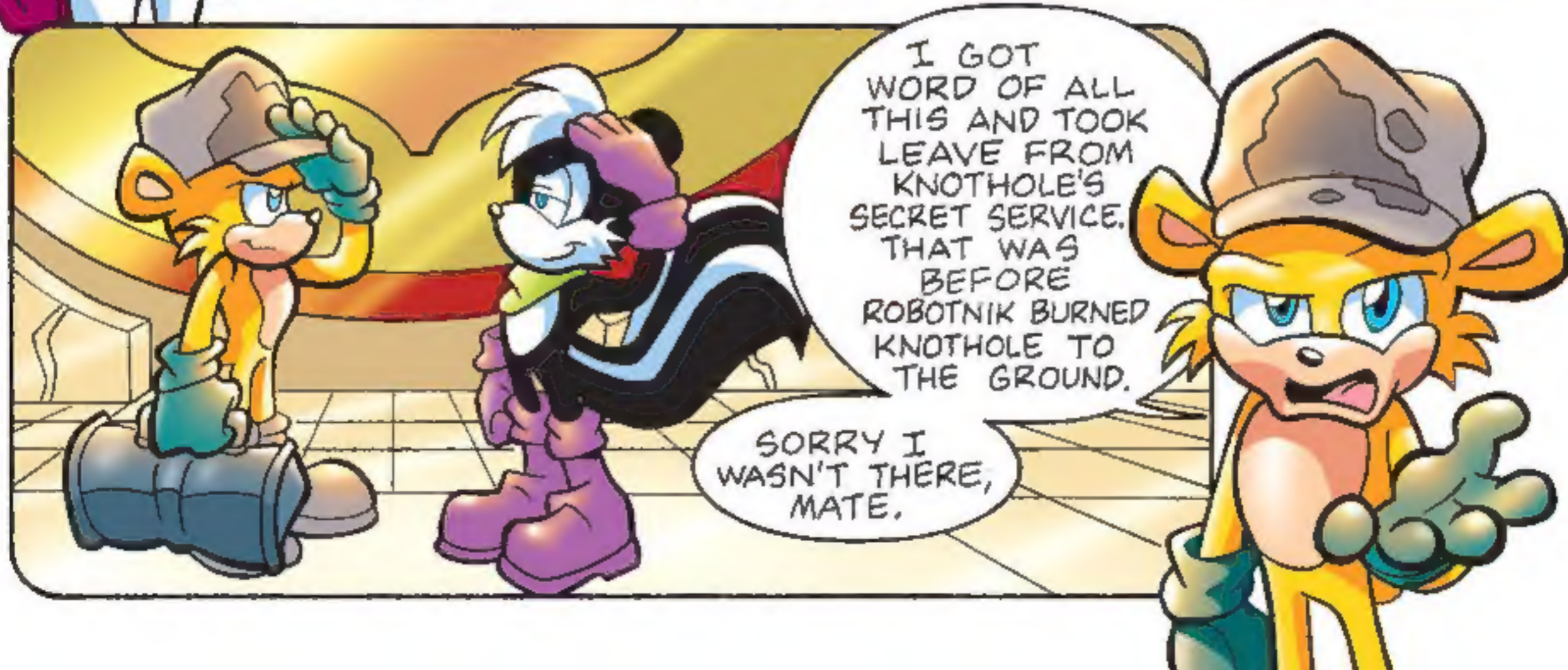
BILL JOINED HIS CAUSE AGAIN...



...BUT OF HIS OWN FREE WILL,

THE PLATYPUSES RALLIED UNDER HIM AND ALL RECEIVED CYBERNETIC UPGRADES.

BILL'S BEEN LEADING THEM-- POORLY-- EVER SINCE.



I GOT WORD OF ALL THIS AND TOOK LEAVE FROM KNOTHOLE'S SECRET SERVICE. THAT WAS BEFORE ROBOTNIK BURNED KNOTHOLE TO THE GROUND.

SORRY I WASN'T THERE, MATE.

AND THEN THRASH FILLED IN THE VACANCY IN OUR GROUP A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

EH, ME OWN QUEST WAS TURNIN' UP BUNKUS, SO I FIGURED I'D BUST A FEW HEADS FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE LEGION, THEY JUST CHAINED MY ISLAND DOWN AND DOUBLED OUR NUMBERS.

THAT'S THE WAY TO BE! I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT!

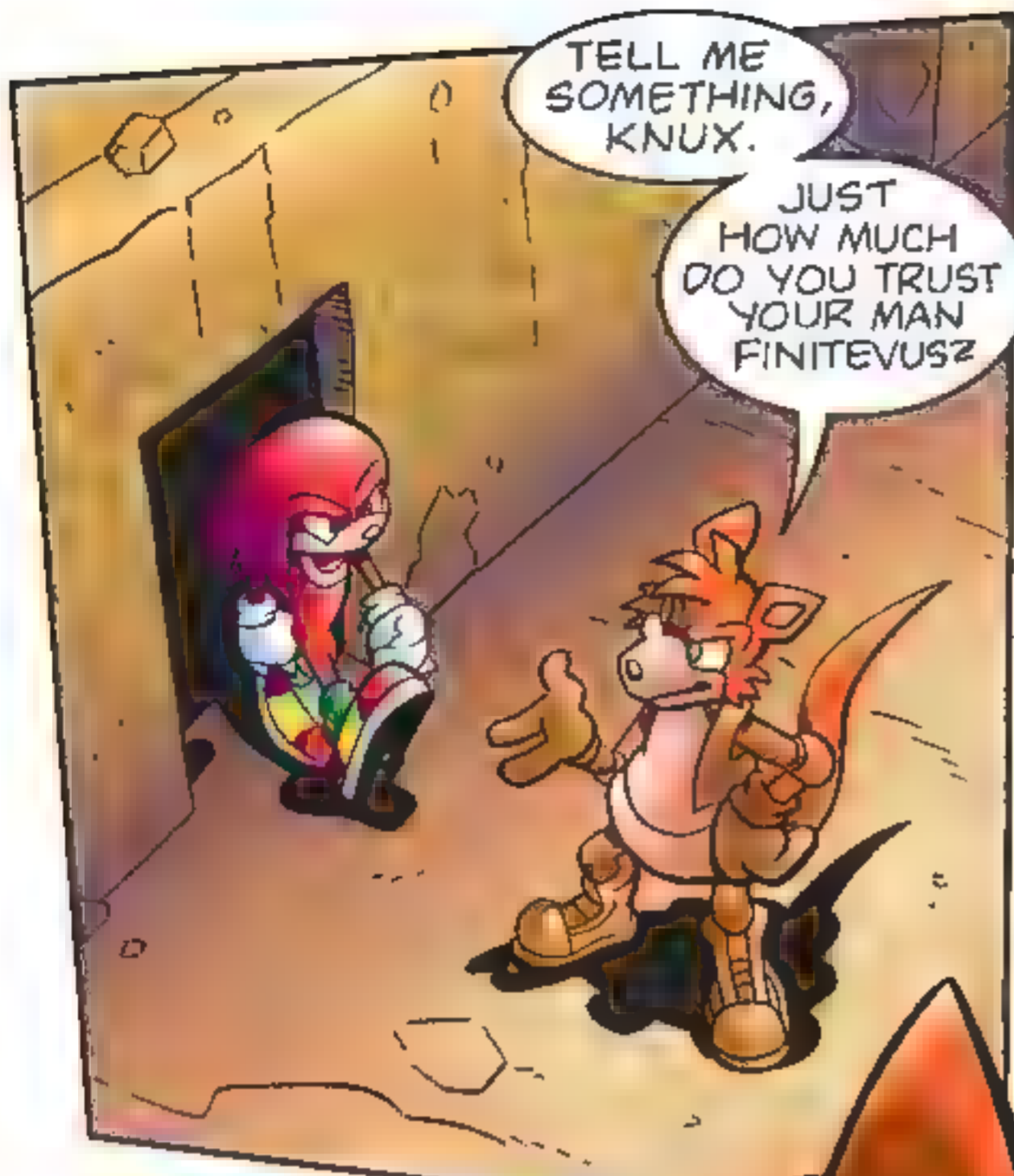
I FIGURE WE'LL TACKLE BOTH PROBLEMS AT ONCE.

ONE TEAM WILL TAKE OUT THOSE CHAINS, WHILE THE OTHER TEAM WILL TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. DO YOU WANT TO STICK WITH OUR CURRENT TEAMS, OR DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND?

SOMETHING ELSE,

STEP OUT WITH ME FOR A SEC AND I'LL EXPLAIN.



TELL ME SOMETHING, KNUX.

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST YOUR MAN FINITEVUSZ



I DON'T.

I GLOSSED OVER SOME OF THE DETAILS, BUT HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FATHER'S DEATH.



HE'S ONLY WITH US OUT OF NECESSITY RIGHT NOW.

GOOD.

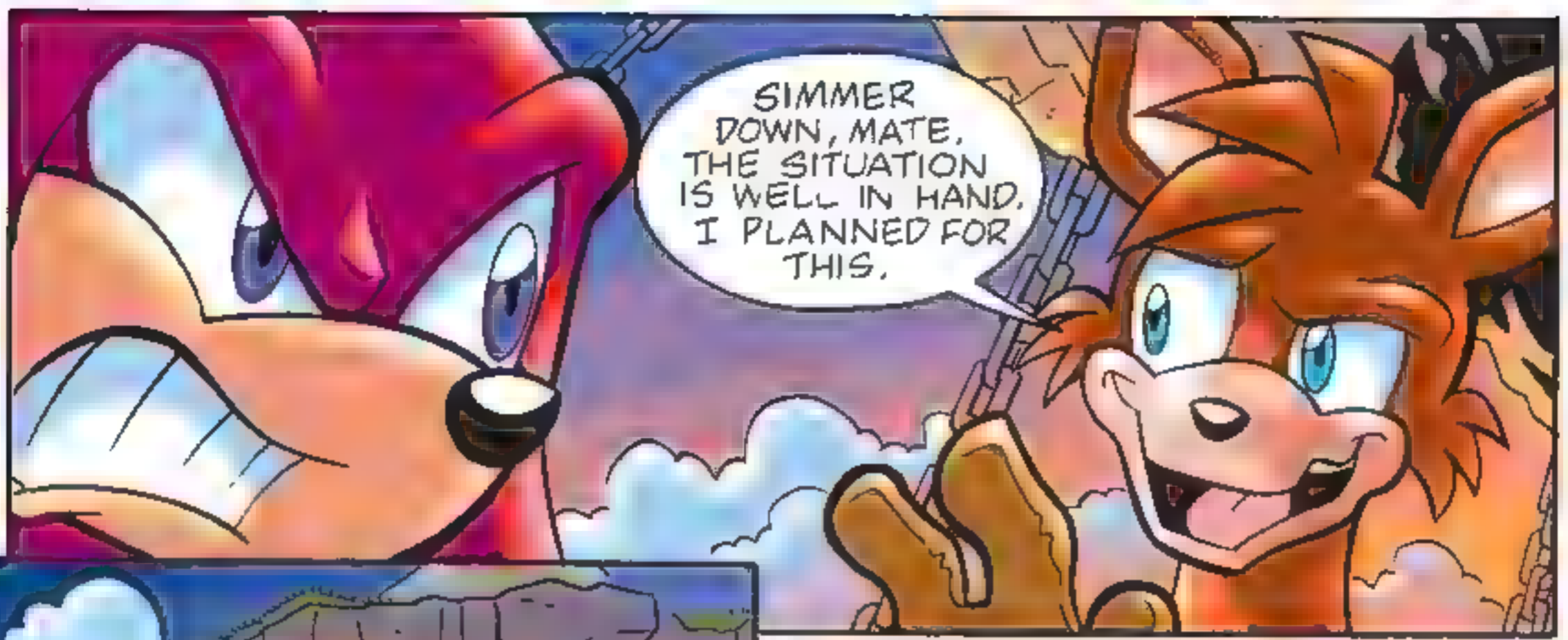
"GOOD"?

I WAS AFRAID I WAS LAYING BAD NEWS AT YOUR FEET, MATE.

WE'VE SEEN HIM WORKING WITH THE LEGION FOR A FEW DAYS NOW. I'M WILLING TO BET HE'S GETTING READY TO DOUBLE-CROSS YOU.

I KNEW IT!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED WHEN I---!



SIMMER  
DOWN, MATE.  
THE SITUATION  
IS WELL IN HAND.  
I PLANNED FOR  
THIS.

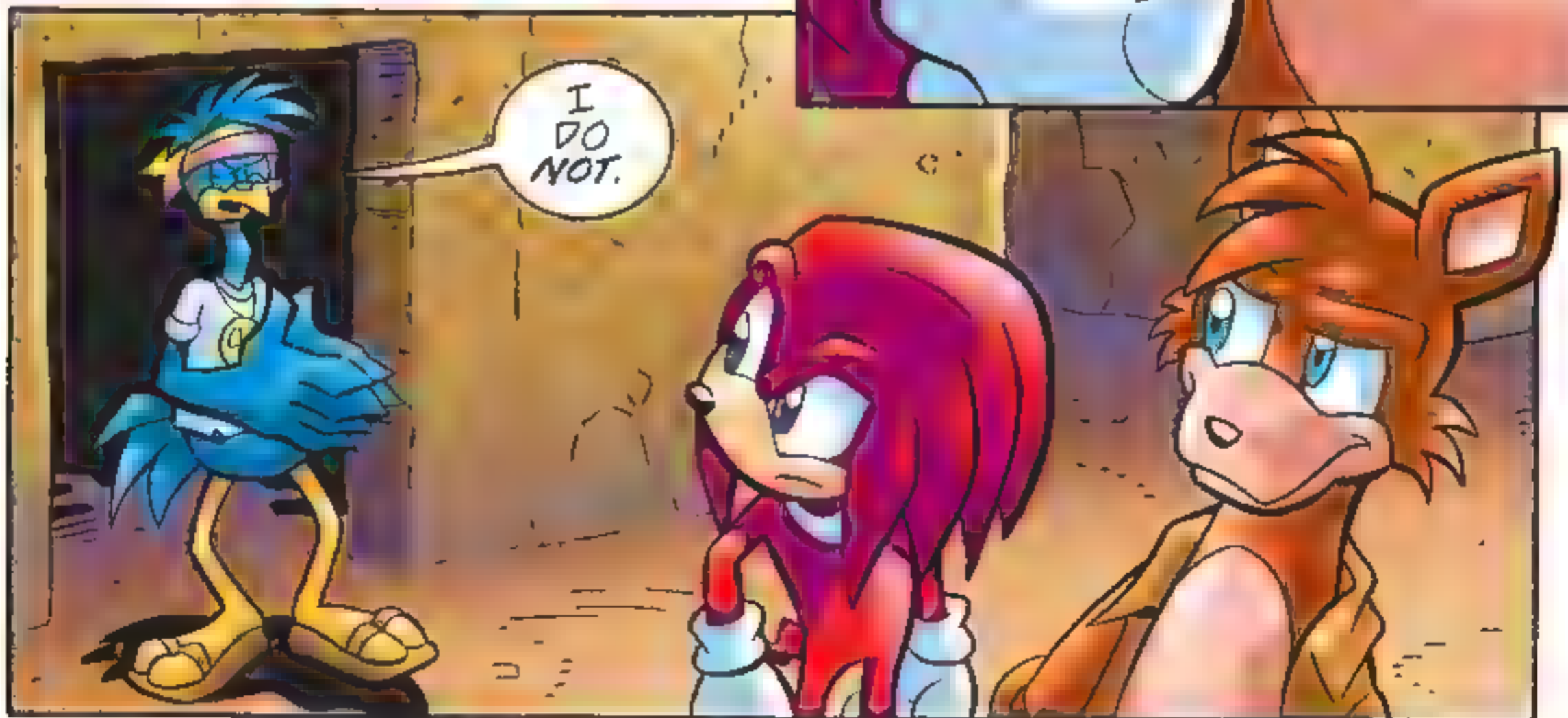


YOU  
TAKE YOUR  
BLOKES UP TO  
THE RIM AND GET  
YOUR HOME BACK  
ON COURSE.



WE'LL TAKE  
FINITEVUS WITH  
US, BUT HE WON'T  
BE COMING BACK.  
NOT TO STEAL YOUR  
THUNDER, OF  
COURSE...

NO, IT'S  
OKAY. MAYBE  
IT'S BETTER OUT  
OF MY HANDS,  
I LIKE THAT  
PLAN.



I  
DO  
NOT.

MY NONVIOLENT WAYS ASIDE, GANGING UP ON SOMEONE IS BAD KARMA, MAN.

THEN YOU GO WITH THE CHAOTIX AND HELP THEM FREE THEIR HOME. WILL THAT WORK FOR YOU, GURU?

FINITEVUS, YOU'RE WITH THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS. MEET UP OUTSIDE.

SHA.

GURU WILL GO WITH THE THREE OF US WHEN WE ATTACK THE CRATER'S RIM.

YOU'RE LEAVING OUT TWO PEOPLE, HON.

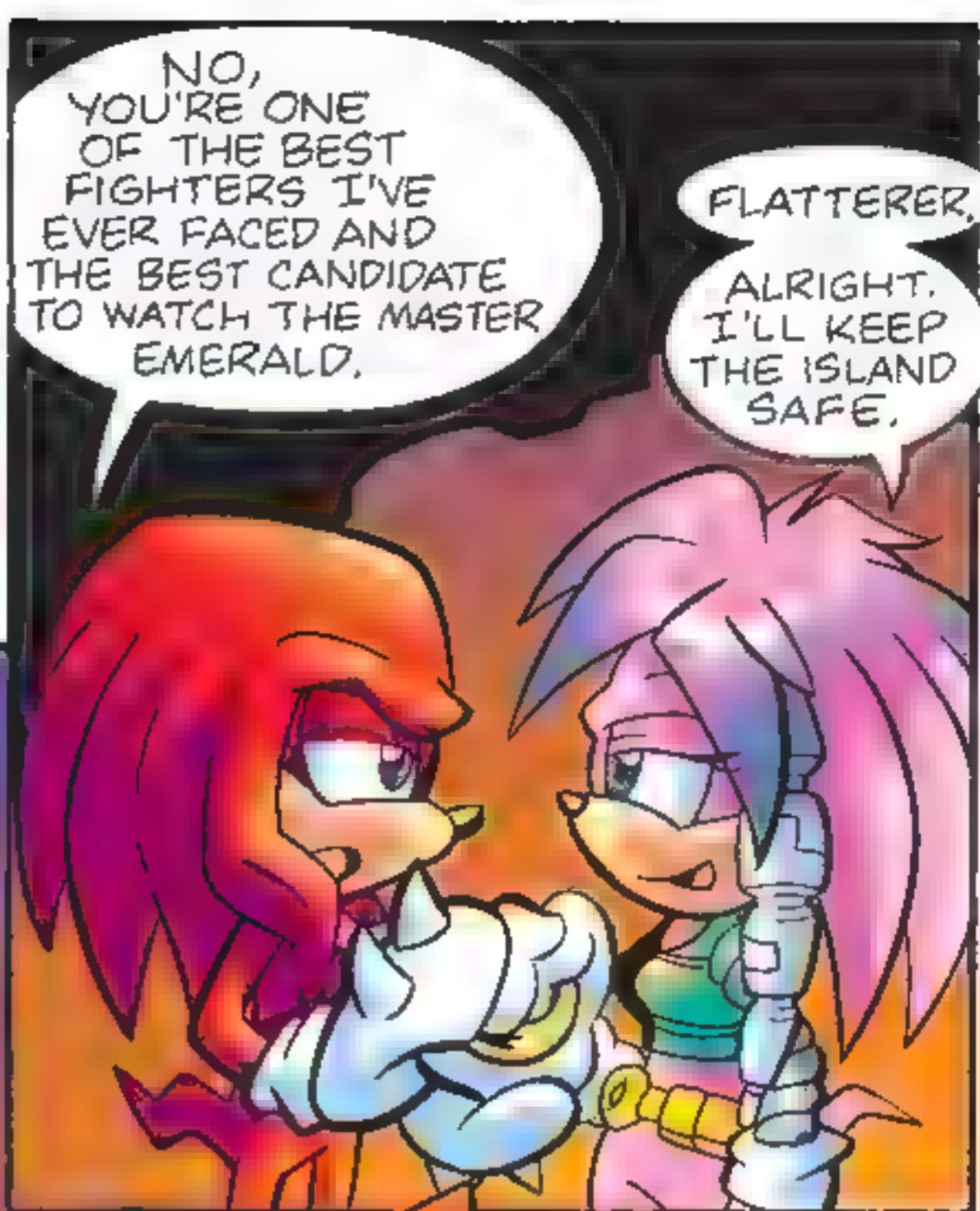
NO, I'M NOT. YOU'RE TAKING RAY AND GOING HOME.

WHAT?!



I NEED YOU TO WATCH OUR BACKS, AND RAY CAN HELP.

ALL THE WAY UP ON ANGEL ISLAND, HUH? I'M NOT A SNIPER, KNUCKLES.



NO, YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST FIGHTERS I'VE EVER FACED AND THE BEST CANDIDATE TO WATCH THE MASTER EMERALD.

FLATTERER. ALRIGHT, I'LL KEEP THE ISLAND SAFE.



SINCE WHEN WAS "YOU CAN KICK MY BUTT" A ROMANTIC LINE?

DUDE, I STILL THINK HE'S TRIPPIN' RINGS TO BE DATING HER.

BYE, MIGHTY! SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK

THE GREAT CRATER--RIM

HERE'S ONE OF THE LAUNCHERS...

...AND THEY USE WARP RING TECH TO COVER THE DISTANCE TO ANGEL ISLAND,

FINITEVUS WAS BEHIND THIS FROM THE BEGINNING.

PRETTY COOL WAY OF GETTING AROUND THE TENSION ISSUE.

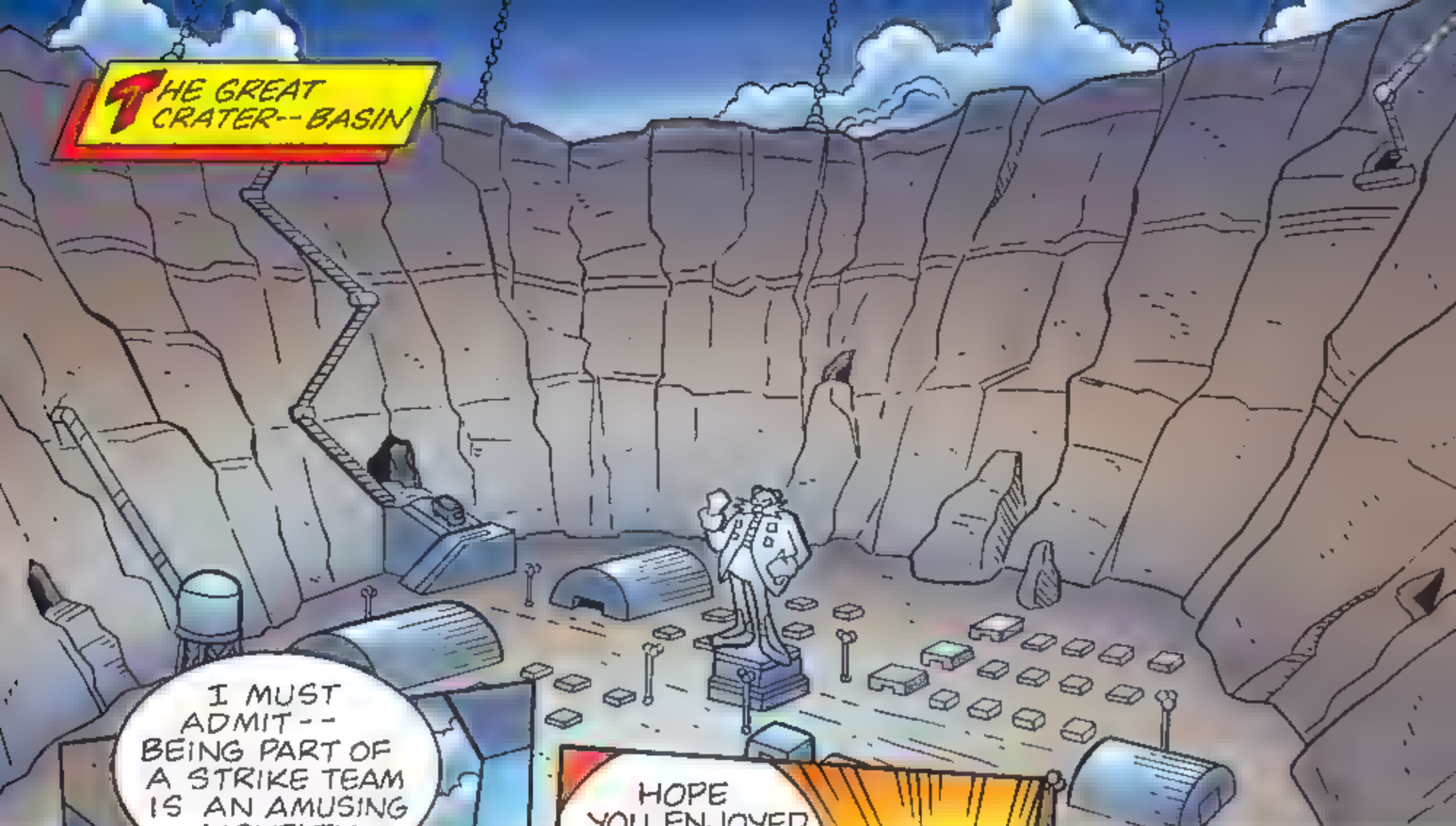
VEC, DON'T COMPLIMENT THAT GUY'S...

GET DOWN!

GET DOWN TO WHERE, MAN?



**THE GREAT CRATER--BASIN**




I MUST ADMIT-- BEING PART OF A STRIKE TEAM IS AN AMUSING NOVELTY.



HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT, CHUM. YOU AIN'T GOT MUCH LEFT TO LOOK FORWARD TO.




KEEP THIS PROFESSIONAL, THRASH.




QUICK, QUIET, AND WE FIND BILL.



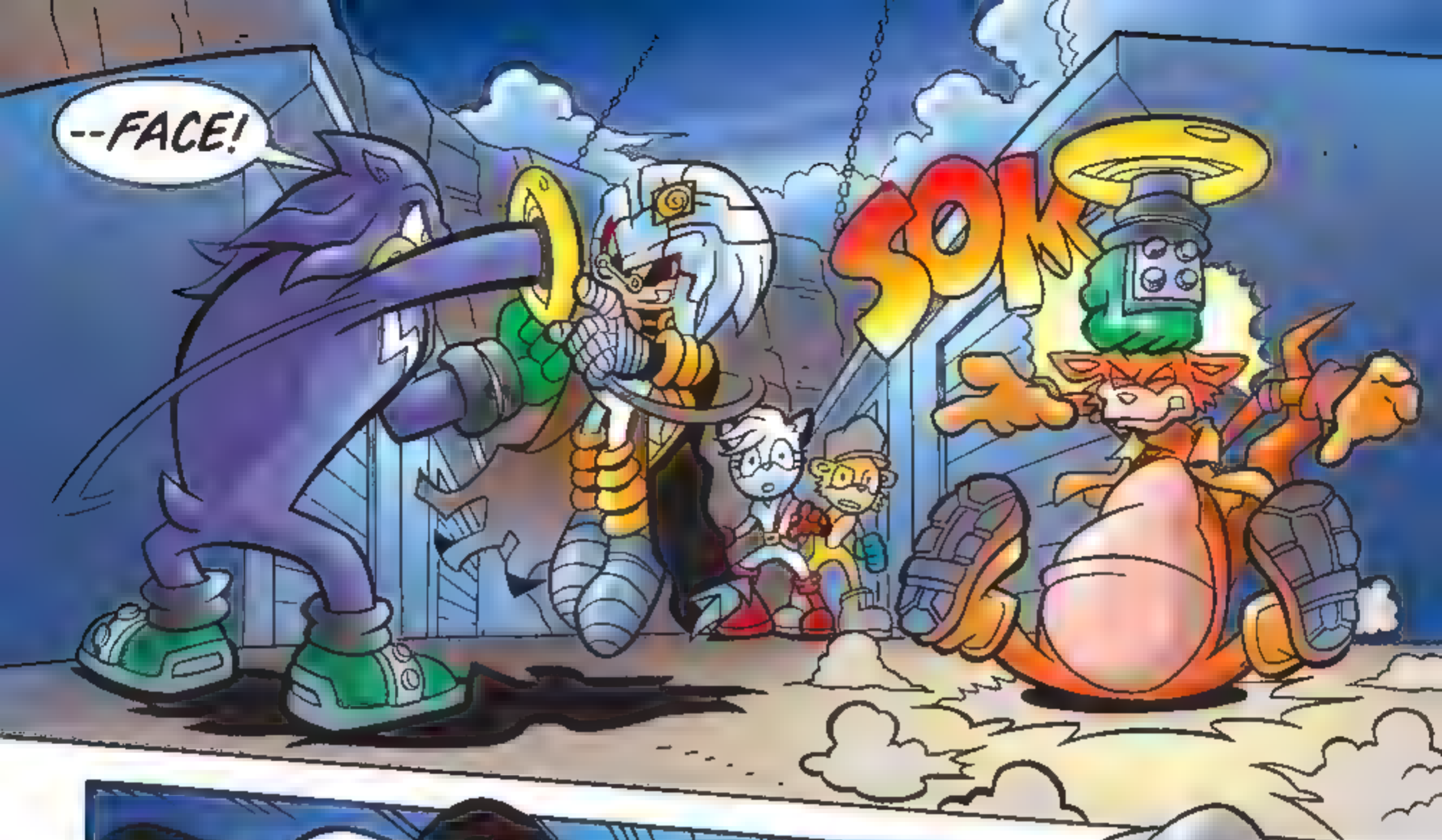
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM HIM?



HIS "BREED" IS USELESS NEXT TO THE REST OF THE MONGRELS MY KIND PERFECTED.

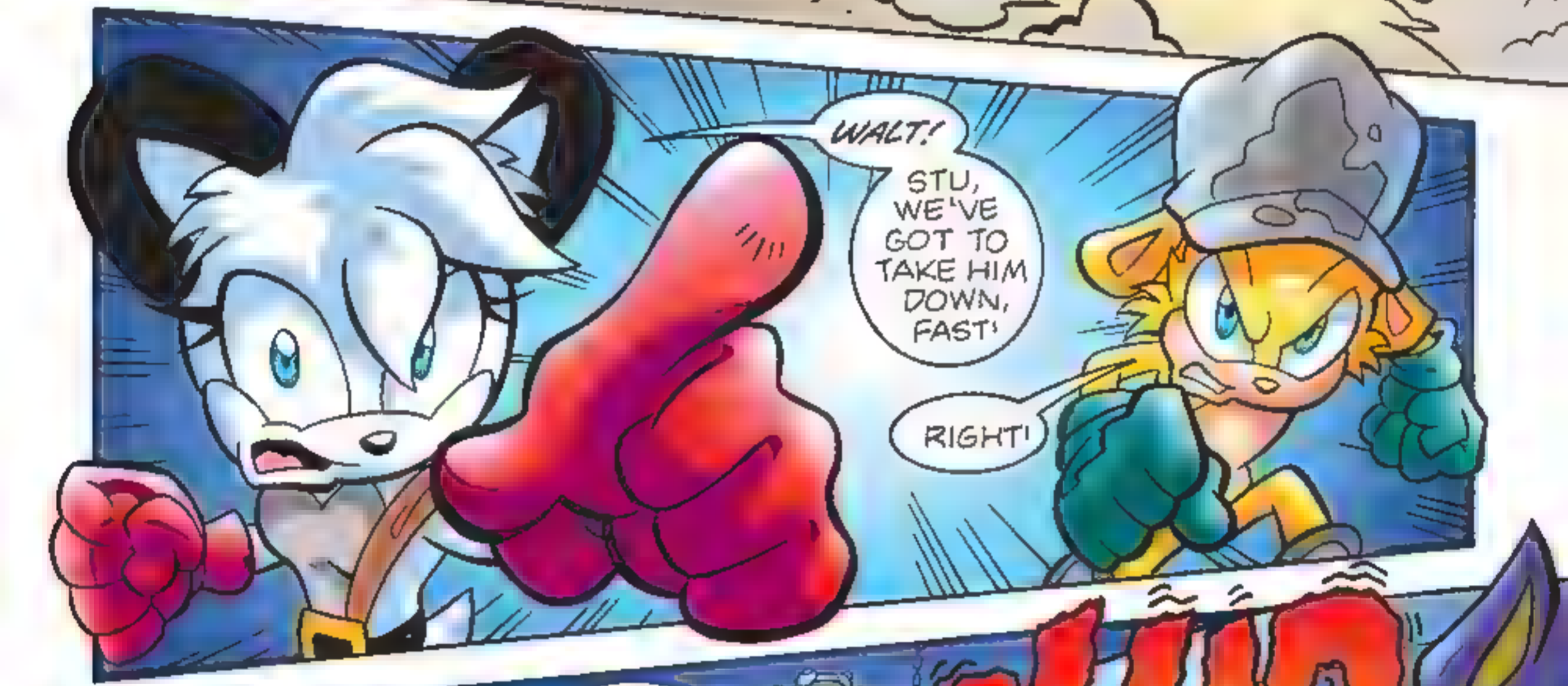


YOU-- SHUT-- YOUR-- FILTHY--



--FACE!

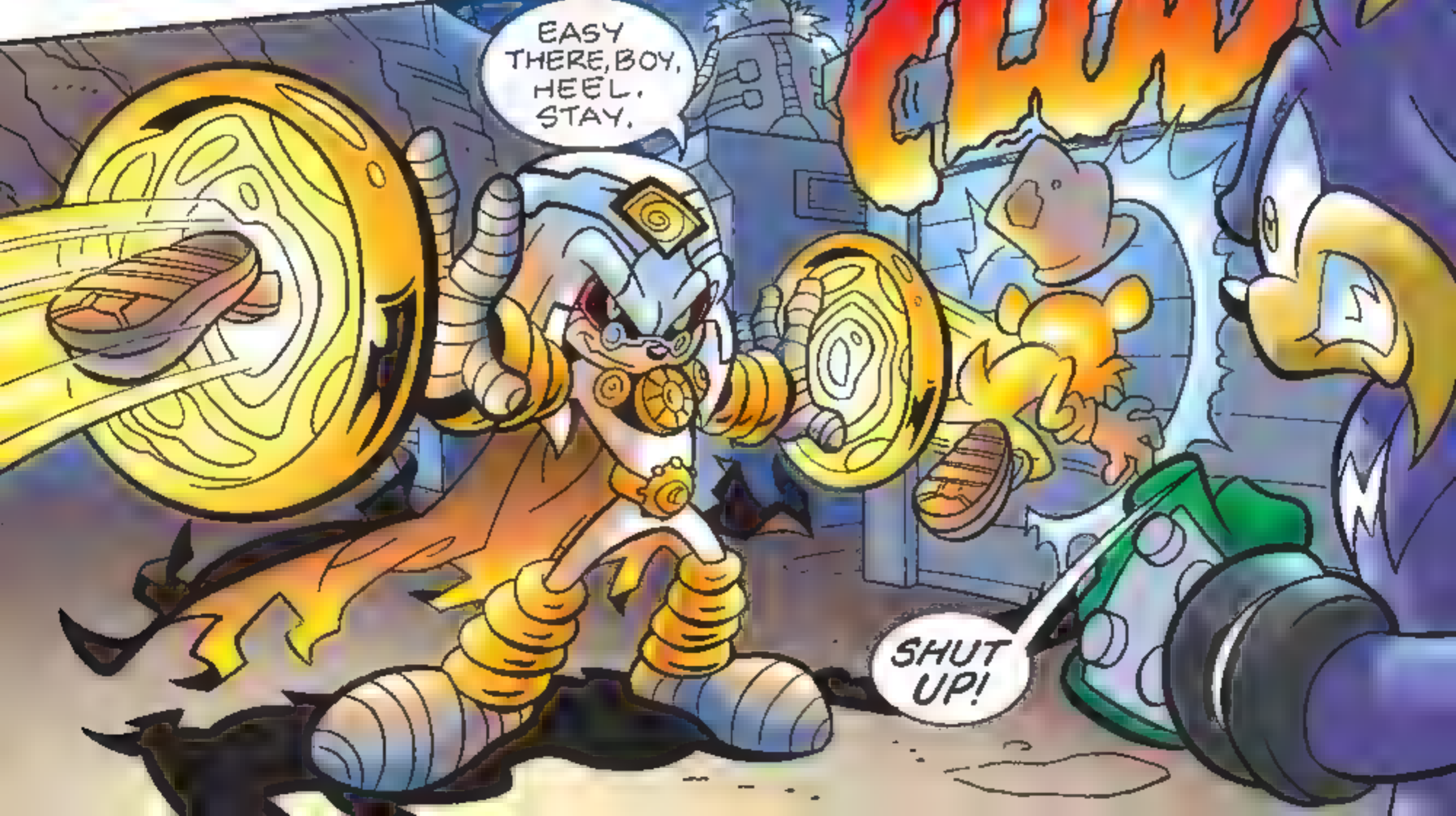
SOK



WALT!

STU,  
WE'VE  
GOT TO  
TAKE HIM  
DOWN,  
FAST!

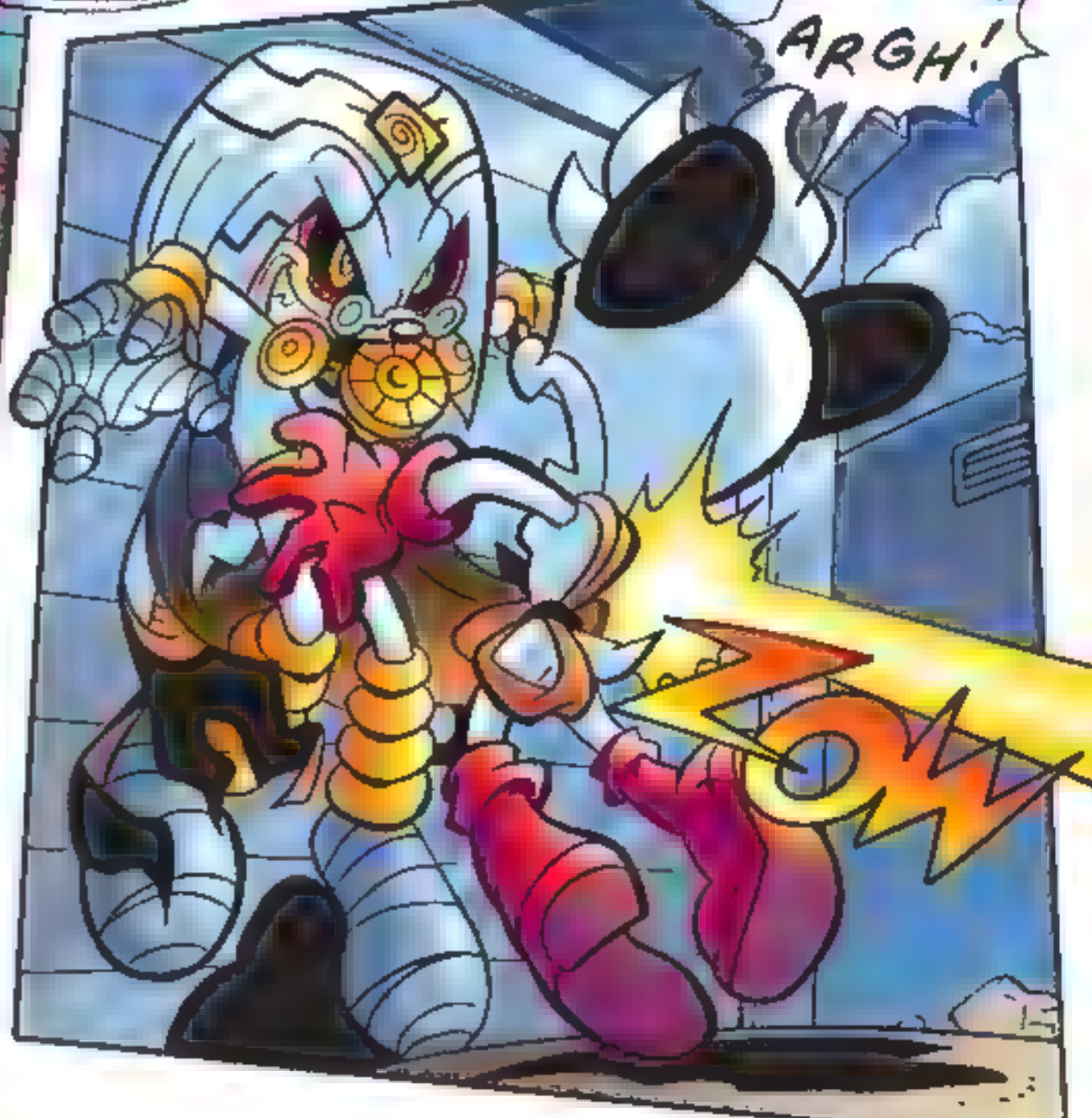
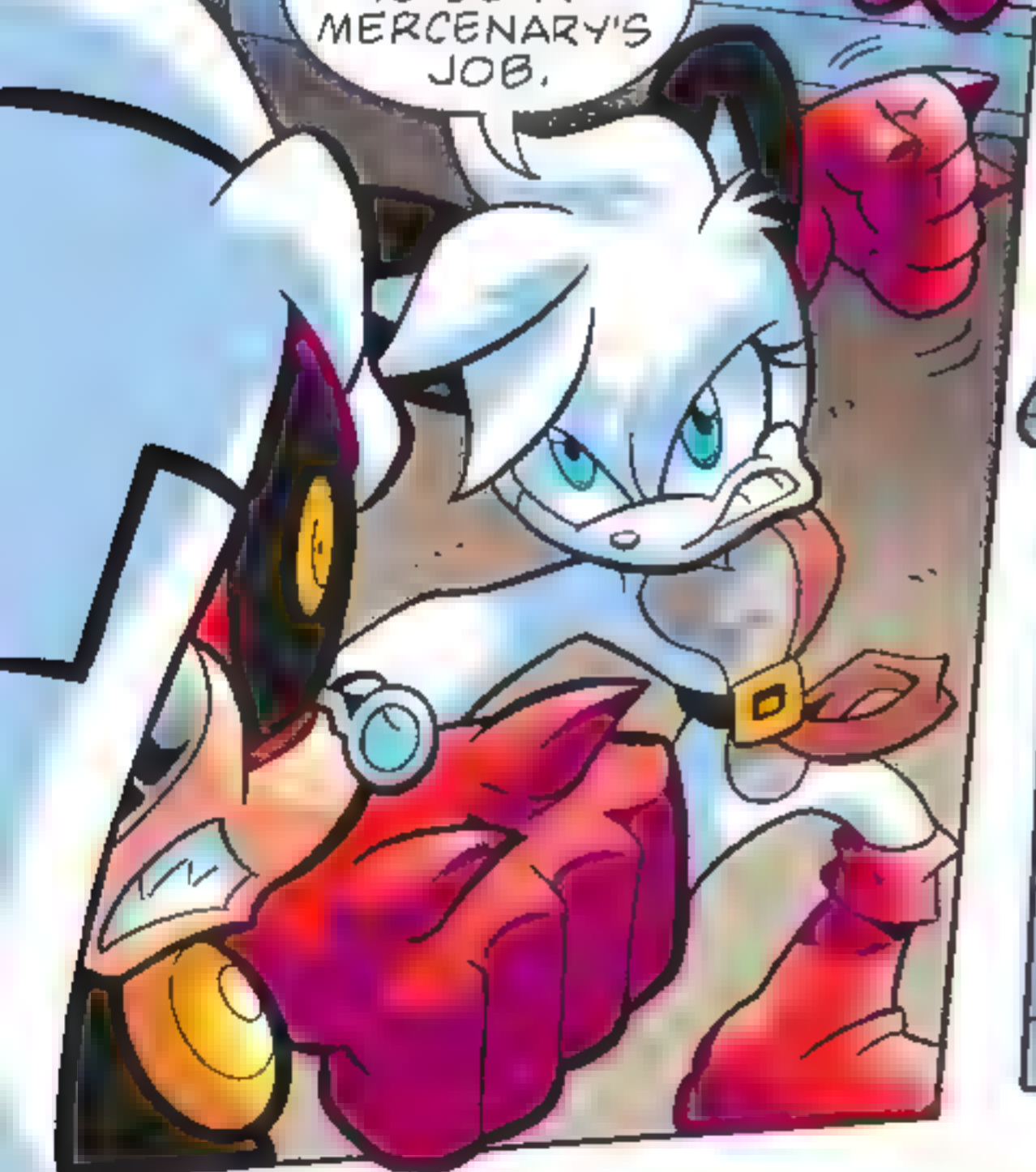
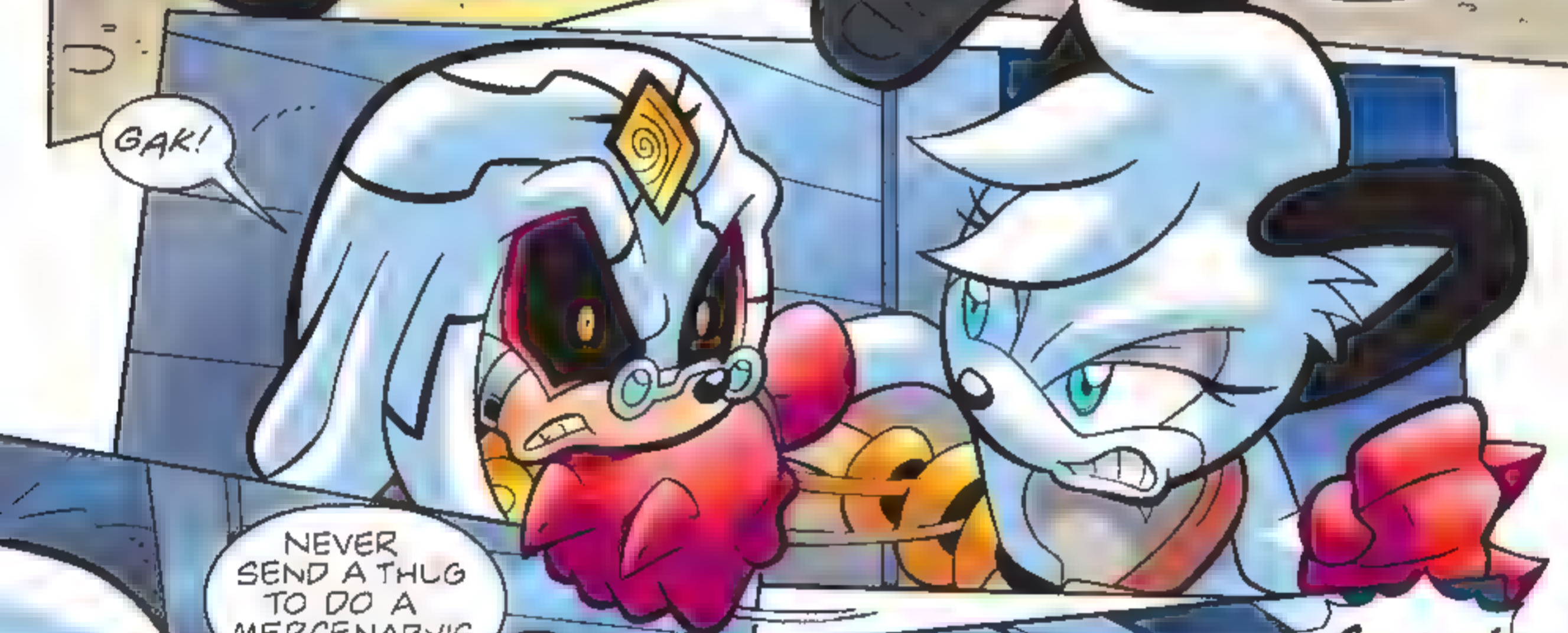
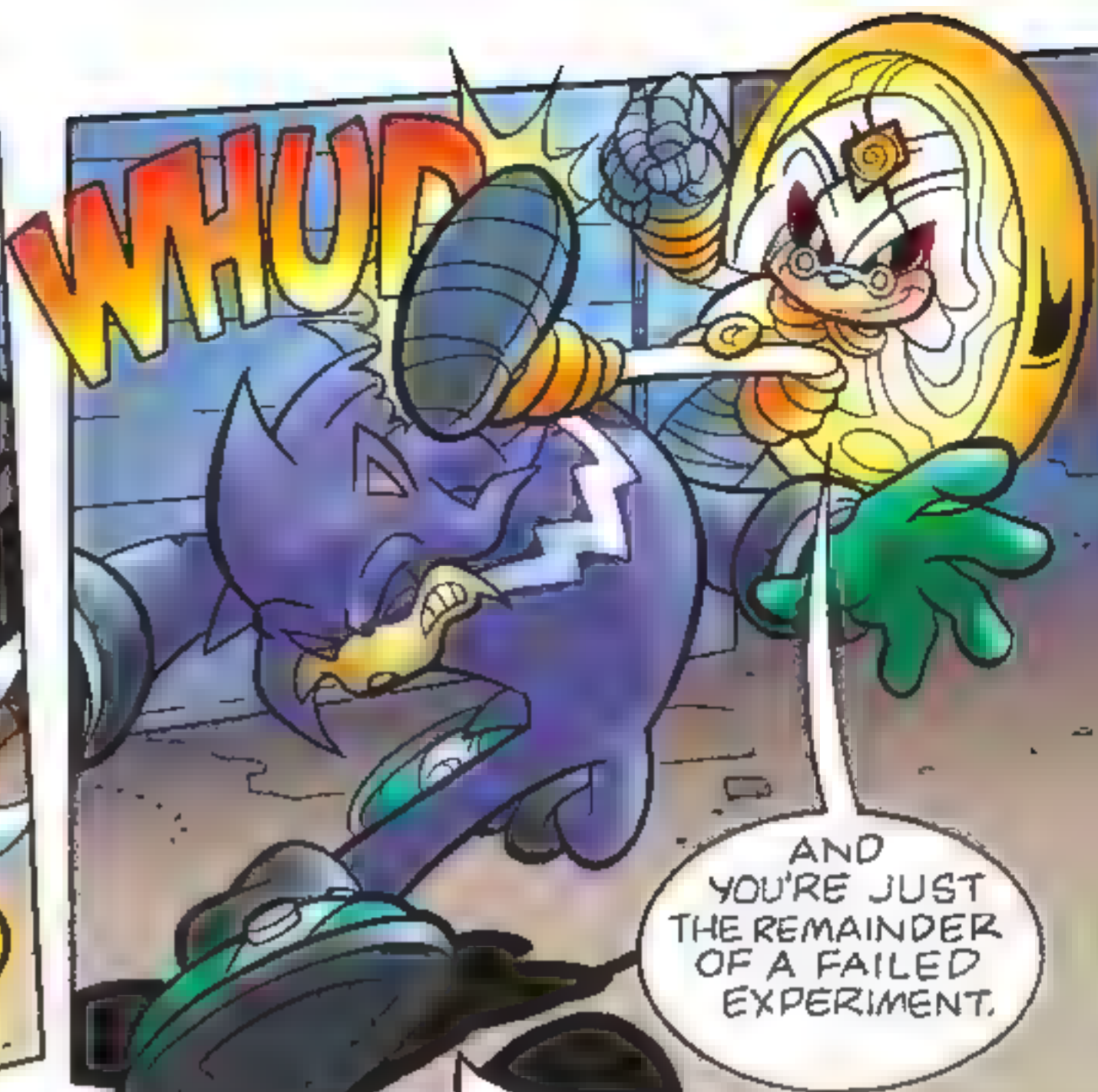
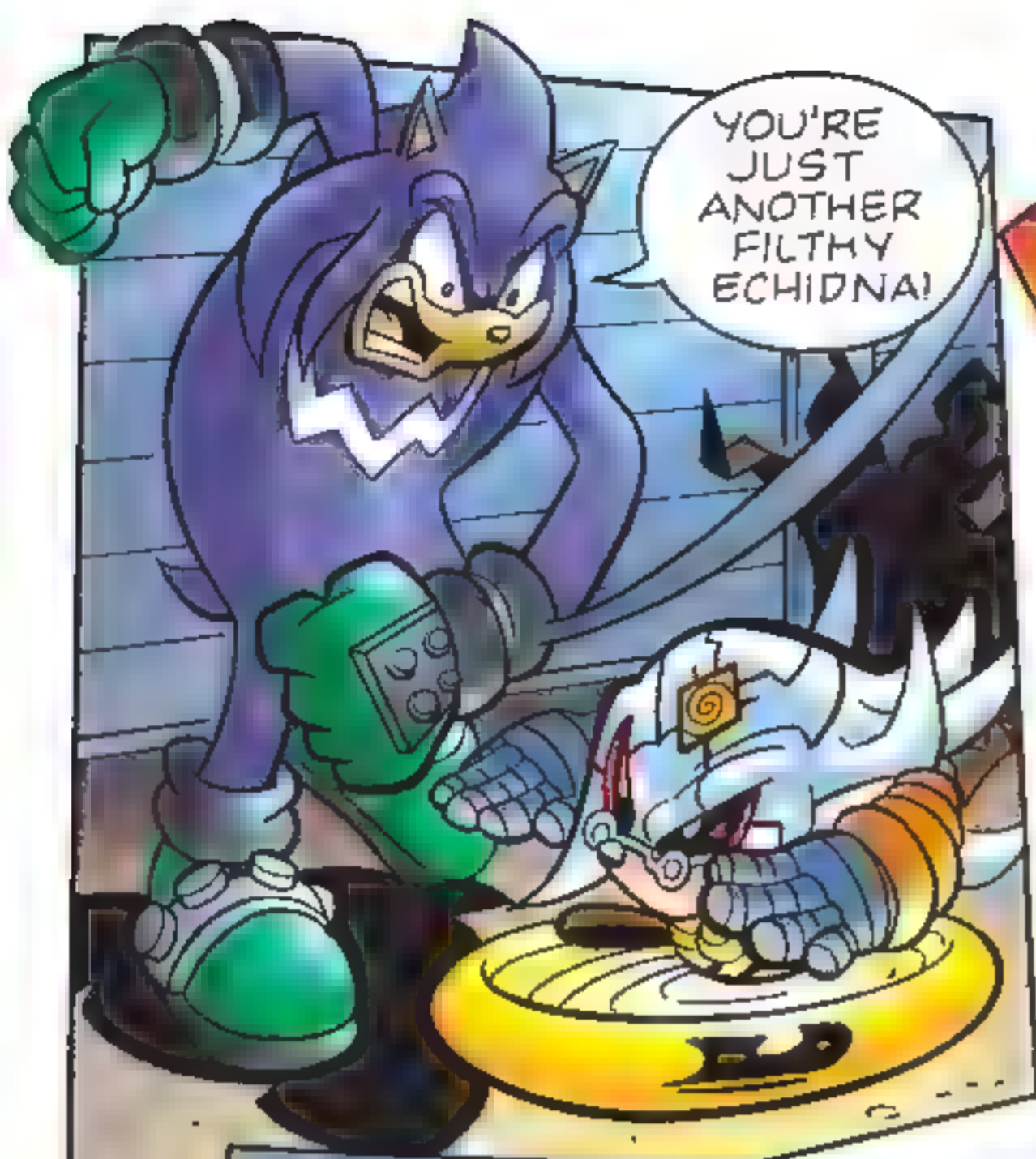
RIGHT!



EASY  
THERE, BOY,  
HEEL.  
STAY.

CLUD

SHUT  
UP!





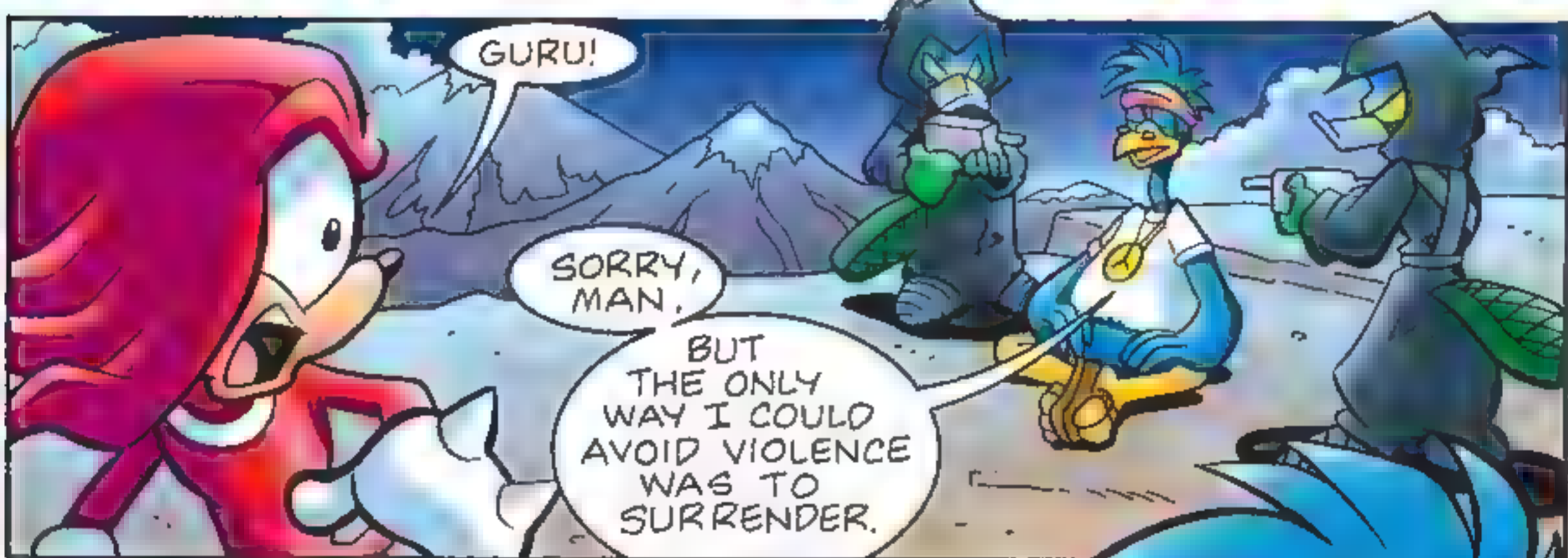
VECTOR!  
MIGHTY'S  
OUT!

GRAB  
HIM WHILE  
I GO FOR THE  
LAUNCHER!



SORRY  
KNUCKLES!

BLAST IT!  
GURU!  
GO AFTER  
MIGHTY  
WHILE I GET  
VECTOR!



GURU!

SORRY,  
MAN.

BUT  
THE ONLY  
WAY I COULD  
AVOID VIOLENCE  
WAS TO  
SURRENDER.



YOU'VE  
GOT TO BE  
KIDDING  
ME!

VIOLENCE  
IS RARELY THE  
ANSWER.

YOU HAVE  
TO LISTEN TO  
THE DREAMTIME.  
EVERYTHING IS  
CONNECTED. WE  
WE ARE MEANT TO  
BE SOMEWHERE.

FINE!  
MORE FOR  
ME!  
BRING  
IT ON  
YOU---



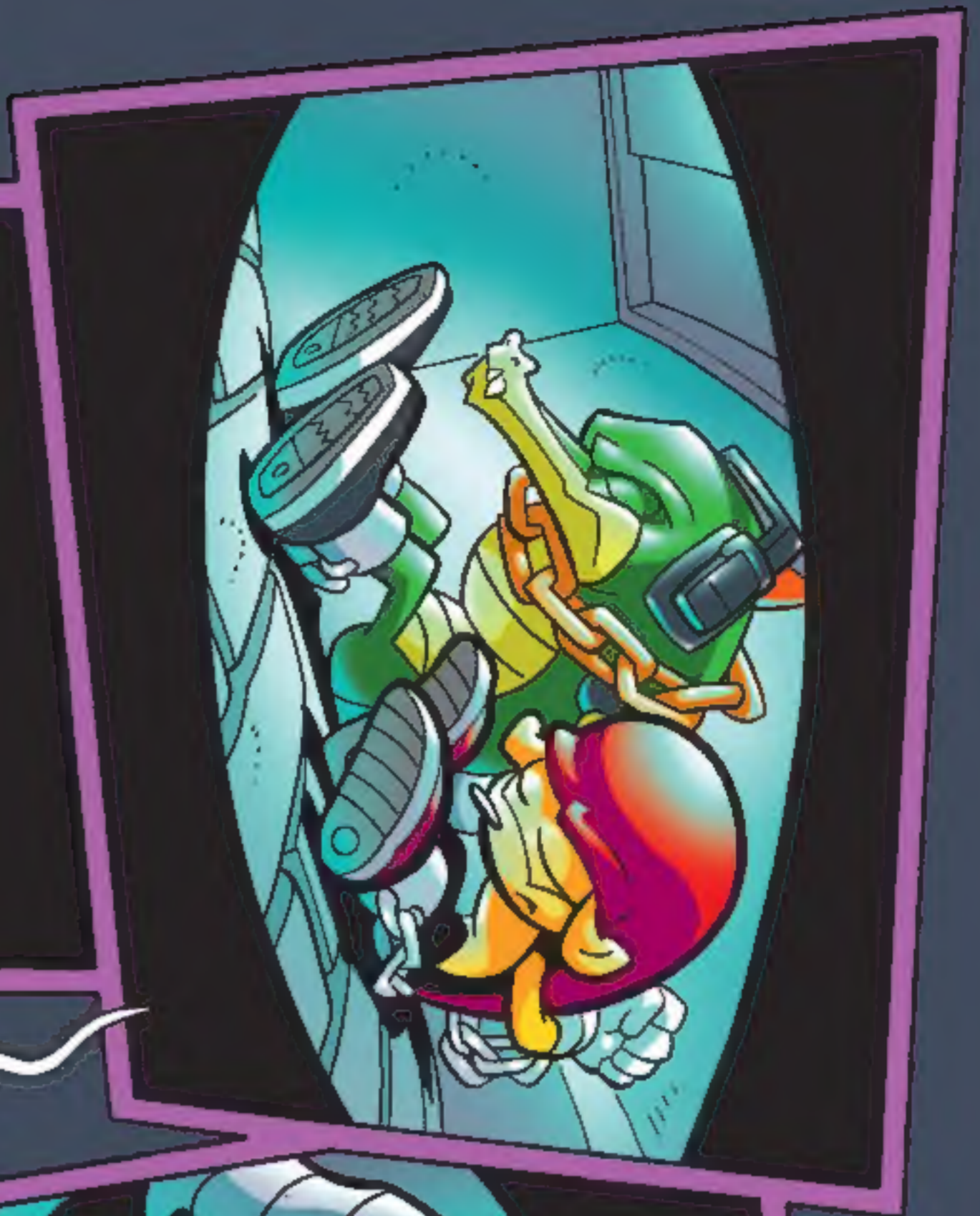
ZOW ZOW ZOW

RRRGH!

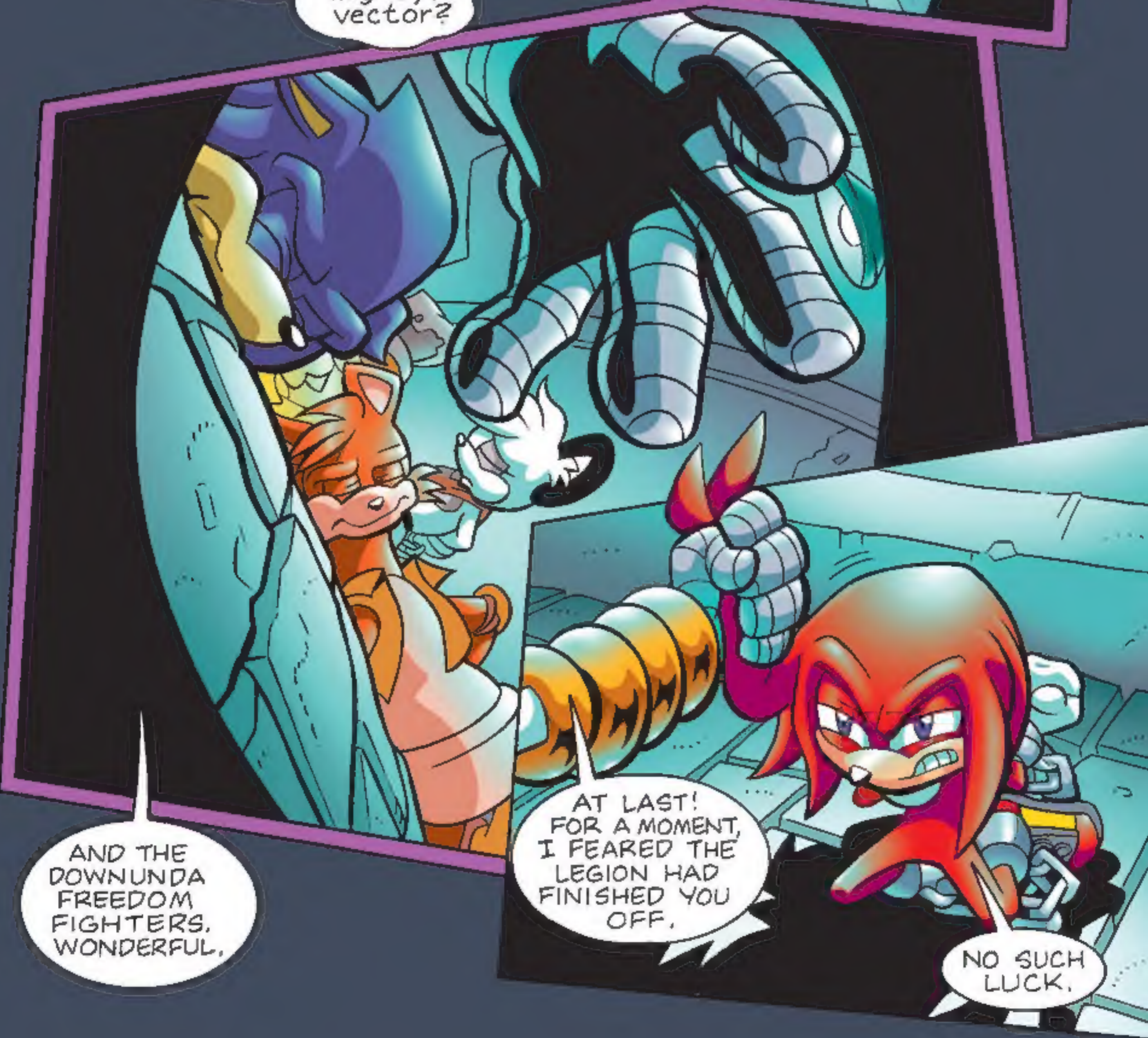
g... guru...

YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
GONE WITH  
THE FLOW,  
MAN.






ungh...  
mighty?  
vector?



AND THE  
DOWNUNDA  
FREEDOM  
FIGHTERS,  
WONDERFUL,

AT LAST!  
FOR A MOMENT,  
I FEARED THE  
LEGION HAD  
FINISHED YOU  
OFF,

NO SUCH  
LUCK,



OF COURSE.  
YOU WOULDN'T  
BE A GUARDIAN IF  
YOU DIDN'T STUBBORNLY  
DELAY THE  
INEVITABLE!

**The Chaotix and Downunda Freedom  
Fighters – down and out?!**

**How can they escape from the den  
of the enemy?**

**And what about Angel Island?**

**Don't miss the exciting conclusion in**

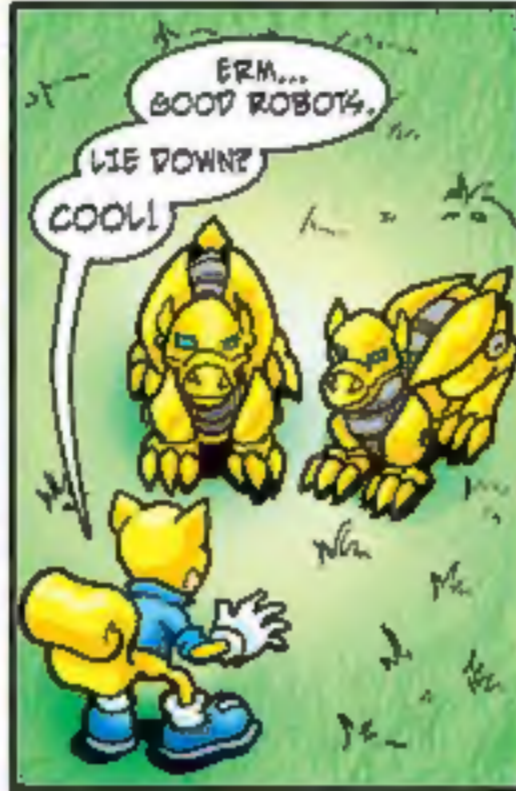
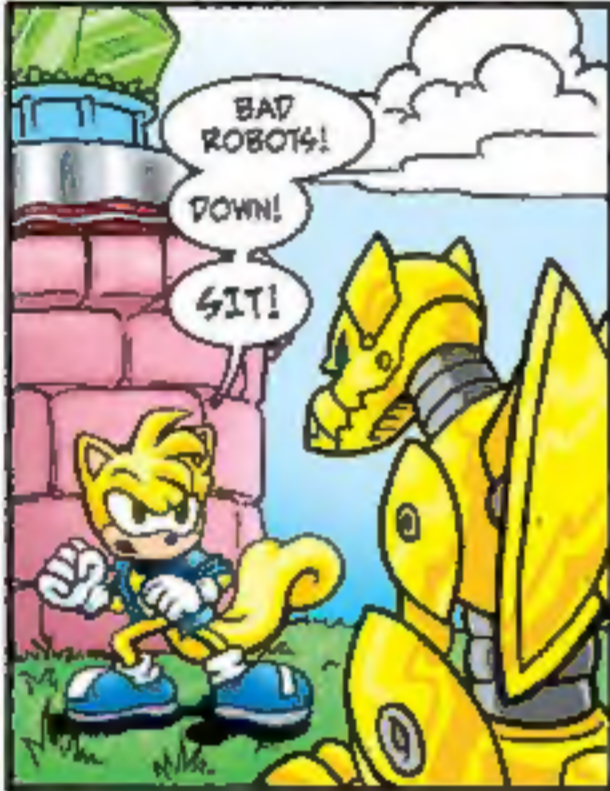
**SONIC UNIVERSE #12!**



**OFF-PANEL**

**ECHOES of the PAST**

"RAY SAVES THE DAY"



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**OFF-PANEL**

**ECHOES of the PAST**

"GOTCHA"



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI



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